NMI FestPac delegates ready to represent. PAGE 2
Fallen officers, firefighters, conservation officer honored. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 98

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

IN BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES LEAKED:

CUC board spends $92K in 2 years

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's cash-strapped utilities company's board of directors has spent over $80,000 on travel and per diem expenses since they were re-established midway through 2014. Since that time, they've also spent over $12,000 on their honorariums, or stipends, for board meetings.

See CUC on Page 4

Labor: CNMI will likely exceed CW cap

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Only 2K plus CW status left to be allocated for FY '16

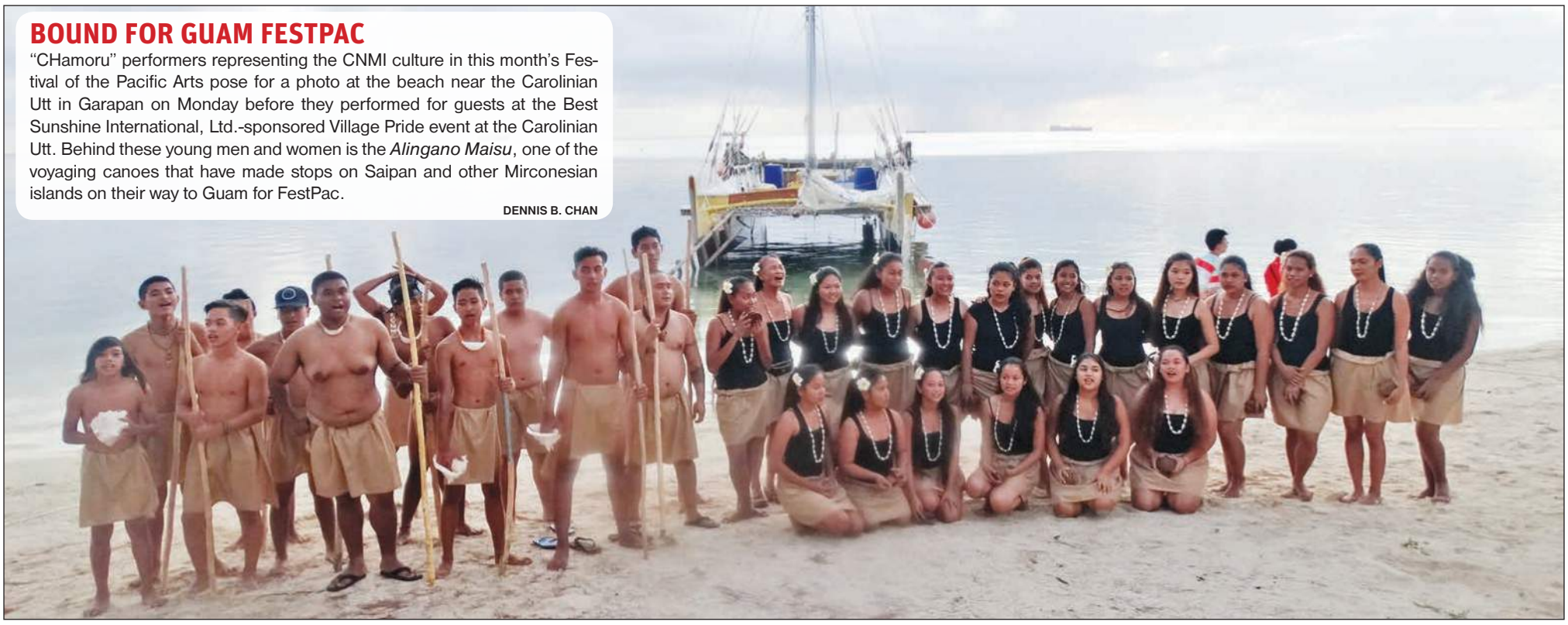
With four more months into the current fiscal year, the CNMI can only apply for about 2,000 more workers to have Commonwealth-only status for Fiscal Year 2016.

A more current statistic showed that a total of 10,794 CW beneficiaries have been approved, according to data provided by Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero based on the amount of funds the CNMI Treasury has received from the $150 CW supplemental fees.

"The numbers processed and/or approved for the current FY 16 CW-1 CNMI allocation indeed shows a higher number compared to the prior fiscal year," DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Our count based on the amount

See LABOR on Page 4



BOUND FOR GUAM FESTPAC
"CHamoru" performers representing the CNMI culture in this month's Festival of the Pacific Arts pose for a photo at the beach near the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Monday before they performed for guests at the Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-sponsored Village Pride event at the Carolinian Utt. Behind these young men and women is the *Alingano Maisu*, one of the voyaging canoes that have made stops on Saipan and other Mirconesian islands on their way to Guam for FestPac.
DENNIS B. CHAN

Japan-bound passenger allegedly concealed $40,000 cash in luggage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal agents arrested yesterday a Japan-bound passenger who allegedly carried $40,000 cash in his luggage without declaring the currency at the Saipan International Airport.

Tsunemasa Otsuji was served with an arrest warrant after the Department of Homeland Security filed a criminal complaint charging him with one count of bulk cash smuggling.

DHS Homeland Security Investigations special agent Everette Route stated in an affidavit that on Monday he received a call from supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Mark Layman about Otsuji, who during a screening process had been flagged with carrying undeclared currency possibly over $10,000.

See CASH on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
In February 2016, 45 participants from Saipan enrolled in the 12-week Gold's Gym Challenge.

PAGE 13

FOCUS
Fifty years after Mao Zedong unleashed the decade-long Cultural Revolution to reassert his authority, the spirit of modern China's founder still exerts a powerful pull.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
A special cultural show was put on stage by performers from the Pu Tian Tong Le art group at the Saipan World Resort last Thursday night.

PAGE 20

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

JON PEREZ

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, second left, and Talaabwogh men stick dancers group leader Joseph K. Ruak, third left, receive the T-shirt donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, left, and manager Raymond Zapanta yesterday at the J.P. Center in Garapan.

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
WHAT TO DO AT CLUB C?
WIN
$11,639
on our
Progressive Hotshots!
Great New Draws
every Wednesday to Saturday
Hourly Draws from 7pm to Midnight
From $25 to $250
Sunday
Hourly Draws 6pm to 10pm
From $100 to $250
Become a Club Member and Spend your Points in our Restaurant and Bar
Great Food - Great Entertainment - Great Prizes
OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
WiFi
www.facebook/clubcsaipan

Local

NMI FestPac delegates ready to represent

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the 250-strong CNMI delegation to the 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts are all set to represent and showcase their talents in the largest gathering of island nations in the region. They will be leaving in batches starting today with the last group heading to Guam on Saturday.

John Oliver Gonzales is the head of the delegation that is composed of crafters, visual artists, performers, weavers, and wood carvers from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

The ManAtigos—which has 38 dancers—Cultural Production Inc., Petlas Marianas, and Simiyan Linala are the dance groups that will be performing in the two-week long festival.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog and Frances Sablan, the program co-chair for the FestPac CNMI planning committee, are also part of the delegation. Gordon Marciano is Sablan's co-chair but won't be going.

Gonzales, Hocog, and Sablan met with the parents of the delegates who are still under 21 to explain some of their policies that would be imposed once in Guam to make sure their kids are safe. They also attended a mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral last Sunday.

Sablan, who has been attending the FestPac since 1985, said she has been acting as a seamstress of their group, the ManAtigos, in order to take care of some of the costumes to cut cost of buying or having them repaired by a dressmaker or a tailor.

They had also prepared eight dances that their group will be performing and will add more once the festivities begin at the Paseo de Susana Park in Hagatna.

"Our group has been meeting five times a week since January. We've been practicing three times a week, perform every Thursday night at the Street Market, and every Saturday we work on our costumes," said Sablan.

"We will also be holding a storytelling in the language conference where we will showcase the chanting and dancing of the legend of the lost continent of Mu."

Their group held several fundraising activities and they also allotted the money they received from their performances at the Thursday Market and Taste of the Marianas. Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team also donated to their fundraising.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation also provided 250 T-shirts—worth $3,000—that will be worn by all delegates in the festival.

The CNMI will be among the more than 3,000 delegates attending the quadrennial event set from May 22 to June 4. The Festival of the Pacific Arts or Pacific Arts Festival is a quadrennial event hosted by a different country alternating within Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

Hawaii, Polynesia, will be hosting the 2020 edition of the event considered as the Olympics of culture and the arts in the Pacific. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community will hold a meeting to decide which country from Melanesia will host the 2024 FestPac.

Hosting rights will return to Micronesia in 2028 and choosing the next host country is done eight years before the event.

American Samoa, Australia, the Cook Islands, Easter Island, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, the State of Hawaii, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna are the Pacific Island countries and territories that are expected to join the festival.

Torres leads tribute to fallen officers, firefighters, conservation officer

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, second left, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, right, lead the presentation of a memorial wreath at the Department of Public Safety's monument in Susupe during yesterday's National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony. Also in the photo are Saipan Mayor David Apatang, left, and DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and Saipan Mayor David Apatang yesterday led the presentation of a memorial wreath at the DPS monument in Susupe to honor and pay tribute to 14 fallen DPS officers, firefighters, and a conservation officer along with four police officers who were disabled or seriously injured in the line of duty.

Officers and families presented candles at the DPS monument located in front of Jose M. Sablan Building to pay tribute and honor 14 "fallen comrades" during the National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony.

The DPS Special Enforcement Action Section presented a 21-gun salute.

Torres paid tribute for the memory to the "fallen comrades." He also welcomed police cadets, fire cadets, and Commonwealth Ports Authority cadets.

Torres urged law enforcers and firefighters to "keep up the good work" and continue serving the community.

Guerrero called on all residents to remember the officers who sacrificed their lives not only on this Law Enforcement Memorial Day, but each and every day.

"Today, we remember those special officers whose sacrifice has been etched in the souls and minds of the survivors and the officers who cared for them," Guerrero said.

The commissioner also noted that in the past few months, DPS has been the focus of many accusations and investigations that the department often perceives these as being unfair and unfounded.

"We have found it necessary to defend ourselves from broad-based charges of racism, bias, and unfair enforcement of the laws we have sworn to uphold," he said.

Guerrero said law enforcement officers are constantly scrutinized.

"Some of the media and certain anti-law enforcement organizations' scrutiny is often misguided or simply reflective of bias against peace officers and what we represent," he said.

The commissioner said he is confident that despite the many questions about how law enforcers perform professional duties, the majority of people truly believe and support them.

The honored officers were Capts. Justino T. Arriola and Tommy Alexander; Sgt. Julian A. Manglona; police officers Abraham S. Quitugua, Erlinse C. Santos, Gilbert M. Taisacan, Wilgene T. Lieto, Joe Charfauros Jr., Diwain Stephen; firefighters Esteban R. Nogis, Ernie T. Dela Cruz, Joaquin Camacho, and Raymond Villagomez; resident director John T. Barcinas; and conservation officer Jesus A. Omar.

Officers disabled or seriously injured in the line of duty were police Sgt. Antonio SN. Borja and Police Officers Marvin S. Camacho, Jose Cepeda, and Victor M. Hocog.

Doug Tudor played Taps. Police Officer Patrick Arriola and Alina Cabrera served as master and mistress of ceremony respectively. Police Officer Jhaneeka Atalig made the closing remarks. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '97 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688/235-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio
website: www.dpacarmart.wix.com/cars

Aqua Resort to hold Kumamoto fundraising brunch

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers who will eat brunch on Friday at the Aqua Resort Club's Costa Terrace restaurant will be doing their share to help the victims of last month's Kumamoto earthquake in Japan. The brunch is from 11am to 2pm with all proceeds donated to the victims.

Aqua Resort general manager Kevin Tsurui said this is the Achugao hotel's part of helping the victims recover after the devastating 7.0-magnitude quake that claimed the lives of 49 people. The hotel is a Japanese-invested facility.

"Specially KEN Corporation [Ken Aqua Hotel & Resort Inc.], our parent company is based in Japan. They had already donated $100,000 from our Guam hotels. Hearing what our company did, we too wanted to do our own share," said Tsurui.

Hotel Nikko Guam, Hyatt Regency-Guam, Pacific Islands Club-Guam, Hilton Guam Resort &Spa, Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, and Aqua Resort Club Saipan are owned by KEN Corp. They also manage PIC Saipan.

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas is also helping Aqua Resort with the fundraiser said Tsurui. JSNM is also doing their own fundraising activity in the Thursday Night Market and the Taste of the Marianas for the whole month.

"The JSNM will pick up the check on May 30 and the donation will be given to the Japanese Red Cross Society through the Japanese Consulate," added Tsurui.

He said that he's been reading news stories online and learned that Kumamoto is now short of volunteers and funds.

"There were a lot of volunteers after the earthquake but the damage was extensive they are now short of people helping with the recovery efforts and also short in funds. They need the money that's why we're doing this fundraising," Tsurui added.

He said he was living in Tokyo when a 9.0-magnitude hit in March 2011. The earthquake, the most powerful that hit Japan and fourth in the world since records were kept since 1900, also triggered a powerful tsunami.

"It was one of the scariest moments of my life that's why I know how the people of Kumamoto felt. The importance of recover from such a devastating tragedy is the motivation for this fundraiser."

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan
Pray for Kumamoto

Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Charity Lunch Buffet
May 20, 2016 11:00AM - 14:00PM
$12.00 Adult / $8.00 Child (5-10 years old)
Donation box also available at restaurant outlet
5.20.16 FRI @ Aqua Resort Club Costa Terrace
Profits will be donated to Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Efforts together with the proceeds from the donation box.
For reservations, please call us @ 322-1234 ext 730 (Food & Beverage Reservations)

CASH

From Page 1

Otsuji was scheduled to depart from the Francisco C. Palacios-Saipan International Airport last Monday at 4:30pm aboard Delta Airlines flight #297, and fly directly to Narita, Japan.

Route said at 3pm he along with another HSI Task Force officer met with a CBP officer at the Saipan International Airport and was briefed on the outbound currency enforcement operation initiated by CBP officials.

Route said the intent of this operation was to inform passengers on Delta Flight 297, including Otsuji, about the currency reporting laws of the U.S. such as the requirement to report any amount of $10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

Route said according to CBPO Trisha Aguon, who was leading the outbound currency enforcement operation, she provided Otsuji along with other passengers on Delta flight 297 declaration forms written in the Japanese language explaining the requirement to declare any amount of currency exceeding $10,000.

A Delta Airlines employee accompanying Aguon also translated in the Japanese language the need for all passengers to read the form carefully and to declare any currency over $10,000.

Aguon stated that at 3:20pm, Otsuji declared $0 currency and signed the declaration form.

At 3:50pm, Otsuji began to board Delta flight 297. After five minutes, he was escorted out of the tarmac by Aguon and escorted to an interview room at the airport.

Otsuji's checked in golf bag was brought to the interview room by a Transportation Security Administration personnel.

Route said Otsuji consented for Aguon to search his golf bag.

Route said Aguon found eight 100 bundles of $50 bills equaling $5,000 each and totaling $40,000.

The money was wrapped inside tour pamphlets inside the golf bag.

Route said according to Otsuji the money was given to him by a certain Yamaguchi, who allegedly owns a construction and real estate company in Japan.

Route said Otsuji claimed that Yamaguchi asked him to carry the money back to Japan for him.

Otsuji stated that Yamaguchi was also traveling back to Japan on the same flight with him and that he did not know why he did not carry the money himself.

He said Yamaguchi asked him to carry the money and give it back to him when they got to Japan.

Otsuji stated he did not know he had to declare the money on Saipan, but that he would declare the amount in Japan.

Route said asked why he put $0 in the form, Otsuji explained he did not read the form carefully.

ROYAL VISIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated left, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang join some of the 2016 Liberation Day Royal Court candidates in a courtesy call last Wednesday at the Governor's Office conference room in Capital Hill.

LABOR

From Page 1

of funds transferred down to the CNMI Treasury is showing a total of 10,794 which means we only have 2,205 left on the allowable allocation for FY 2016 of 12,999," she added.

This also means that more than $1.6 million has been received by the Commonwealth's coffers to fund ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development.

The U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services uses the employment start date of a CW-1 beneficiary to determine in which fiscal year cap it will be counted.

This means that petitions filed for FY 2016 have employment start dates between Oct. 1, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016.

The current numbers indicate the CNMI's need for foreign workers and the likely scenario that the needs will exceed the cap.

"It is very apparent that the current numbers will most likely than not exceed the allowable cap of 12,999 (we are only nine months into the current fiscal year allocation)," DeLeon Guerrero said.

According to the USCIS, when the CW-1 cap has been reached, they will not accept any cap-subject petitions and reject petitions and return all filing fees to petitioners including CW-1 petitions for extension of stay, which are also subject to the CW-1 cap.

With a rejected extension petition, the workers will no longer be permitted to work beyond the validity period of the previously approved petition.

"The beneficiaries must seek another nonimmigrant or immigrant classification under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or depart the CNMI after their CW-1 validity period has expired," USCIS states.

Worker demand increase vs annual reduction

DeLeon Guerrero said that the current numbers is "an indication of demand for more workers to populate the workforce pipeline" for the growing private sector industry for all three islands particularly on Saipan.

"Plans for economic growth and construction-related activities will definitely demand for more workers and upon completion workers for operations," DeLeon Guerrero said.

For DeLeon Guerrero, the numbers are not surprising at all since the projected worker needs of developers are included in the files that they submit with regulatory agencies "which includes the count of workers necessary for operations of their projects upon completion."

"The current numbers is reflective of existing businesses and ongoing developments," DeLeon Guerrero said, "Existing business expansions are also part of the anticipation as they respond to the growing need to provide the necessary services to the growing economic development projects that we are currently witnessing."

She added that the validity of the data "will definitely help and is key to the 902 discussions."

In FY 2015, only 9,609 CW beneficiaries were applied for and approved out of the 13,999 cap.

However, while demands for foreign workers increases as shown by the trend, the CW cap will continue to go down as the CW program and the transition period nears its end in 2019.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act (CNRA) of 2008 requires that an annual reduction in the number of individuals who may be given CW-1 status each fiscal year until they reduce it to zero two years from now.

It is not clear how much USCIS will reduce the cap by the next fiscal year, but it is clear that they are mandated to reduce the number and that they have in no way be able to increase it.

In 2011, a cap of 22,417 was determined which drastically dropped to 15,000 in 2013. A thousand was slashed from this number for the 2014 cap, while the cap was only reduced by one beneficiary for 2015. Another 1,000 reduction was implemented for the current year.

According to DeLeon Guerrero, they continue to ensure that every qualified and willing to work status qualified participant is given the opportunity for employment.

"The CNMI Department of Labor continues to monitor and enforce the employment laws of the CNMI ensuring that every qualified and willing to work status qualified participant is given the opportunity for employment that they are qualified for while also ensuring that employers are exercising good faith effort and prioritizing the hiring of status qualified participants," DeLeon Guerrero said.

CUC

From Page 1

This according to a summary of board expenses that *Saipan Tribune* obtained yesterday that shows the current board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is in pace to outspend their fiscal year 2016 budget of $40,400. Other than per diem, the travel expenses lie on three to four board members who travel from off-island. Some board members are averaging nearly $1,000 per month in per diem.

If they broke their $40,000 budget, it would not be the first time the board outspent their budget. They did that last year. By July 2015, the CUC board had outspent by $17,704 its year-to-date budget of $24,925 nine months into the fiscal year. They spent a total of $45,767.28 against an original budget of $33,000, which was later amended to around $50,000 to give room for the over-expenditures, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

According to the budget expense breakdown fro FY 2016, the board right now is at some $24,439 in expenses. This is largely attributed to per diem at some $15,800 and airfare and car rental costs at around $5,870 and $2,700, respectively.

Fiscal year 2016 honorarium costs are at $4,500 right now, compared to $6,180 last fiscal year.

The budget breakdown is as of last April 26, 2016. The fiscal year starts in October.

Last week the board also held meetings on Rota with five members attending.

House minority leader Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) raised concern yesterday with the utilities company's board's costs, comparing his concern likewise to concerns with lawmaker government travel across the board and advised against travel when if unnecessary.

"I mean just look at the cost. It only makes sense when we have outstanding obligations of this government," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"They are justifiable travels, I am not saying no. But when you have these kinds" of costs and obligations, "I think we can accomplish the same things even [if] we don't have to inter-island travel," he said.

So far in FY 2016, board member Albert Taitano, from Rota, has spent $2,551 and $925 on airfare and car rental. He has collected $5,775 in per diem.

Director Eric San Nicolas, from Tinian, has spent $1,690.50 and $1,498 on airfare and car rental respectively, while collecting $7,087.50 in per diem

Director Ignacio Perez, who joined the board in February and is from Tinian, is tagged with $345 for airfare and has collected $1,400 for per diem.

Director David Sablan, who flies in from where he lives in Guam, has spent $680.98 and $117.50 on airfare and car rentals, respectively, while collecting $525 for per diem. He does not regularly attend board meeting in person compared to other board members.

'Practice what you preach'

Sablan wrote an email to CUC board members and management of his concern with the travel costs yesterday, raising the alarm against what he suggested where unnecessary or avoidable costs.

Sablan called board members out for clamoring for cost-cuts at the administrative level but not doing so at the board level.

In that email, copies of which were obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Sablan airs concern with reasons for holding their meeting on Rota this month, citing one reason from a board member to "allow the general public on Rota to attend the meeting and voice any concerns."

However, no one from Rota aired comments during the public comment period last week. Other than the board and management, the meeting was attended by members of the media.

Sablan said that in an earlier email before the Rota meeting, he had outlined the difference in expenses between holding a meeting on Saipan versus Rota.

He argued that because their bylaws held them to hold meetings on Tinian and Rota once a year and that since "it was only in the bylaws," they could have been "easily… waived on the record."

"And henceforth hold all meetings on Saipan 'till we pass a budget that allows for such meetings," Sablan said.

He added that the board "did not budget for an off-Saipan meeting" this fiscal year.

"To-date we have cost CUC $92,742 for the 24 months (March 2014 through March 2016) we have been operating as a board—$12,360 was for the meeting honoraria or stipends; the balance of $80,382 was for per diem, rental car expenses and air fares for 3-4 members," Sablan wrote.

Sablan's email indicated that the board members were polled on where the meeting should be held; and that director Joe Torres sent an email to staff to proceed with travel and hotel arrangements for Rota despite concerns from the Sablan and Roberto on costs.

Sablan went on to say that he decided to not attend the Rota meeting to "cut down on board expenses."

"From the last report I received on our board expenditures, we are easily going to exceed our budget again for FY 2016. We exceeded our budget as well for FY 2015. This is not a good "track-record,"' he stressed, urging that board members to be "prudent" in their expenses."

"…We talk about cutting expenses in operations and administration, but at the board level, we don't seem to exercise "what we preach," he added. " We may be creating a double standard, which will foster dissention among the staff, undermine morale, and further reduce productivity. Of all the CUC resources at our disposal, the human resource element can see and voice their disdain of the board by not caring to do their jobs to their fullest capabilities."

Businesses continue to lobby hard against sugar tax

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The local business industry continues to lobby hard against a bill to increase the tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, powders, and syrups to 4 cents per ounce.

Business officials, representing the wholesaler companies like Marpac, the hotel sector like the Hyatt Regency Saipan and Tan Holdings, and even the local theater, met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres Monday for a closed-door meeting in the Office of the Governor's press conference room to air their concerns on House Bill 19-99.

"They are totally opposed to the sugar tax," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*, in an interview after the meeting.

Torres, recalling several points raised from the business people, was told small business would "shut down," and that the .004 tax was already one of the highest in the nation, among other concerns.

"Their concern is that if I was to pass this bill as is, it will hurt the community," he said.

One hotel official, Torres said, stressed that the tax would "definitely hamper" the tourist industry. That official, Torres said, expressed concern that prices were "already high" and that if they were to impose the tax on tourist, it would further mark up costs and impact tourism.

Torres

Torres also said a representative from the local movie theater said the tax would "most likely" cause them to shut down because they make most of their money from beverages.

"Especially for them, when there are small items to sell, there is not much to distribute the increase," or spread costs to other products, Torres said.

Still, as Torres has been both pressured recently by public health groups and businesses on a decision favorable to their causes, he said he is "for sure, not close" to making a decision on the bill.

One way or another, he said, the government would address the issue of health.

"Whether I sign it or I veto it, there is an issue that needs to be addressed. So I've echoed that concern today (Monday) and also with the health [officials] that are for the bill."

In pushing the bill through the House and Senate, bill proponents have stressed the number of deaths in the CNMI attributed to non-communicable disease, with diabetes as one of the leading causes of deaths.

Among points made, proponents say the sugar beverage industry has had the lay of the land for years, clogging consumer choices and options with the "junk" of sugar products and that the chronic conditions diseases related to high sugar intake has had an impoverishing effect on those in the community already bereft of the services or money for the services to treat their health conditions.

The bill, if enacted into law, would have a sunset provision of five years; meaning lawmakers could review the merits and impact of the measure on the community.

Man arrested for allegedly stealing car, drug possession

A jobless man was arrested on Monday for allegedly stealing a car from a residence in San Jose, possession of methamphetamine or "ice," and owning a marijuana plantation.

Joshua James Torres Cruz, 24, was arrested for theft of vehicle, and possession of controlled substance.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $7,500 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for May 24 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Cruz. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Police traffic investigator Norris Kwon stated in his report that on Saturday morning, a man called the Department of Public Safety that his gray 1992 Toyota Tercel two-door sedan with license plate ADU-972 was stolen from his residence in San Jose.

Kwon said a police officer responded and met with the victim.

On Monday at 7:13am, a man called DPS and reported that a stolen car was located at his residence and operated by his nephew, Cruz.

A police officer, who was immediately dispatched to the area, observed Cruz sleeping on the driver's seat of a black Toyota Tercel two-door sedan with license plate ACC-427.

The report did not indicate the location of the house.

The officer also observed a glass pipe with burnt residue and a clear zip lock bag containing clear substance on the right front passenger side seat.

The officer got a "read out" on the license plate attached to the car, ACC-427, which was registered to a white 1998 Kia Sportage 5-door wagon. The license plate ACC-427, which was attached to the rear bumper, did not match the black Toyota Tercel.

Kwon said during his interview Cruz stated that he found the stolen vehicle at the driveway and drove the car.

Kwon said he found a bundle of keys on the ignition and asked Cruz who owned the keys.

Kwon said Cruz admitted he owns the keys.

Kwon said he called DPS Central and verified the Vehicle Identification Number found on the stolen vehicle's body which matched the reported stolen vehicle bearing license plate ADU-972.

Kwon said with the consent of the landlord, he looked around the premises and found a marijuana plantation with 4-foot tall plants next to a white Federal Emergency Management Agency-issued tent, where Cruz normally sleeps.

DPS crime scene technicians seized the marijuana plants as evidence. Cruz was then arrested.

Cruz's uncle told police that the defendant resides at his land on a FEMA-issued tent. The uncle also stated that Cruz does not own a car.

Kwon said during his interview with Cruz at the Department of Corrections, the suspect admitted to being in possession of the stolen car and drove the vehicle around for the past two days. Cruz further admitted to owning the marijuana plantation found next to his FEMA-issued tent.

Kwon said during his field test on the content of the clear zip lock bags found on the right passenger seat of the stolen car, it yielded presumptive positive for "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHAMPION FINANCE

Champion Finance is looking for Dynamic individuals who would like to be a part of our team for the following post.

Loan / Financial Manager

Duties:
- Review loan agreements to ensure that they are complete and accurate according to policy.
- Approve, reject, or coordinate the approval or rejection of lines of credit or commercial, real estate, or personal loans.
- Analyze applicants' financial status, credit, and property evaluations to determine feasibility of granting loans.
- Review collection reports to determine the status of collections and the amounts of outstanding balances.
- Set credit policies, credit lines, procedures and standards in conjunction with senior managers.
- Oversee the flow of cash or financial instruments.
- Prepare financial or regulatory reports required by laws, regulations, or boardsof directors.
- Develop or analyze information to assess the current or future financial status of firms.
- Evaluate financial reporting systems, accounting or collection procedures, or investment activities and make recommendations for changes to procedures, operating systems, budgets, or other financial control functions.
- Establish procedures for custody or control of assets, records, loan collateral, or securities to ensure safekeeping.
- Plan, direct, and coordinate risk and insurance programs of establishments to control risks and losses.

Education/Experience:
- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business Administration or Accounting and 2 years' experience in Finance will be a plus. Salary will be discussed upon interview.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumes or pick up an employment application at
Champion Finance, 3rd floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 316-B
or email championfinancecnmi@gmail.com

KENSINGTON HOTEL SAIPAN
Grand Opening : JULY 21, 2016

We deliver the F.U.N. in Hospitality
Flexibility • Unique • Noble

Culinary: Baker/Main Kitchen Line Cook/Chinese Cook/Japanese Cook/Steward
Engineering : Landscape
Housekeeping : Assistant Manager

Please email your resume to hr@mrisaipan.com or call 322-3311

SAIPAN KENSINGTON HOTEL

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Sirok given authority to discuss oil spill, cleanup efforts with EPA

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Officials and board members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., together with their project contractor and Rota officials, led the ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the $170,000 steel-framed used oil containment structure at the Rota power plant in Songsong Village last Friday.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROTA—The board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has authorized its legal counsel to discuss with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and sign a non-disclosure agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard with regards to oil spill and cleanup efforts done in the CNMI.

The board passed two motions at a board meeting held on Rota last Friday, authorizing legal counsel James Sirok "to get into a discussion with EPA" and "to sign on behalf of CUC in regards to a non-disclosure agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard."

According to board chair Adelina Roberto, they needed a non-disclosure agreement "because the Coast Guard won't talk to us."

"He has to act on our behalf whatever the non-disclosure agreement will be," Roberto said, "He's going to act on behalf of CUC."

» CUC celebrates completion of used oil containment in Rota

According to Roberto, the authorization for the legal counsel with regards to EPA is for them to waive the charges made by the agency.

"They are assessing penalties that we told them we don't have the money to pay," Roberto said.

During their March board meetings, the board was also informed of the fees assessed to them by the Coast Guard which are "in the millions of dollars" due to oil contamination cleanup expenses since 2008.

According to Roberto, one of the oil spills happened at the Rota power plant in Songsong where CUC also held a ceremonial ribbon cutting for a roof enclosure for used oil earlier last Friday.

The $170,000 structure is made of galvanized metal and galvalium, which according to project contractor Radio-Com Saipan, Inc. vice president Vicki Borja, can withstand the harsh environment near the sea.

Aside from the roof structure, the containment also has a cemented flooring to prevent spilling, if any, to seep through the soil.

CUC Rota deputy director Charles Manglona said the structure can store up to 100 barrels of used oil.

Before the structure was built, the barrels were just left in the open, vulnerable to rain.

"When the rain comes down to those barrels of oil, the oil spills," Roberto said.

"Now we can contain any oil spill. We can tell the Coast Guard this is what we did and this will eliminate future spilling," she added.

Ex-Army Reserve's trial begins

The jury trial of former U.S. Army Reserve member Jordan M. Jucutan began yesterday in federal court.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing completed the U.S. government's opening statements.

Attorney Pamela Brown Blackburn, counsel for Jucutan, is expected to make the defense's opening statements today, Wednesday, at 8am.

Jucutan is facing charges of four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft.

Lorfing alleged that Jucutan, a former member of the U.S. Army Reserve, engaged in a scheme to defraud and to obtain money by falsely claiming he referred soldiers to enlist in the Reserve through the Army Reserve Recruiter Assistant Program.

In his opening statements, Lorfing asked the jurors to remember the code of conduct—duty, honor, and integrity.

Lorfing said it's not an ordinary fraud case, but about a man who defrauded a contractor for the U.S. Army Reserve Command during a time of war.

Lorfing said that in 2005, the U.S. was facing two wars—in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

He said the U.S. Army Reserve Command entered into a contract with Document & Packaging Brothers Inc. (Docupak) to administer a program called the Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program.

Lorfing said AR-RAP was designed to offer monetary incentives in the form of recruiting referral bonuses to Army Reserve soldiers, known as recruiter assistants, to recruit other individuals to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The prosecutor said $2,000 is given to a recruiter assistant, for every soldier recruited.

Lorfing named four persons in which Jucutan received money for supposedly recruiting them.

Lorfing said the evidence will show that the four never gave Jucutan permission to use their Social Security number and that they were not recruited.

Lorfing also named four other individuals that Jucutan supposedly nominated in his scheme.

Lorfing said Jucutan made a confession when interrogated by agents from the U.S. Army Reserve Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-013

Repair and Renovation of DPS Boating Safety Section Office, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair and Renovation of DPS Boating Safety Section Office, Smiling Cove, Saipan,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 11, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 27, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 31, 2016** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-013".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 21, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 21, 2016,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 21, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **July 01, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, July 05, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on June 21, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-014

AS LITO WATER DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE AND REPLACEMENT/RELOCATION OF SERVICE LATERALS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of As Lito Water Distribution Upgrade and Replacement/Relocation of Service Laterals in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of new fire hydrants, flush hydrants, air relief valves, new water lateral connections, relocation and reconnection of existing water meters and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-16-014, As Lito Water Distribution Upgrade and Replacement/Relocation of Service Laterals"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 9, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 23, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

NMTI, Make-A-Wish share money raised in Hyatt golf

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Trades Institute and Make-A-Wish Foundation were the co-recipients of the money raised in last month's 20th Annual Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. The 2016 edition of the fundraising tournament was held at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

Hyatt Regency officials and staff, led by general manager Nick Nishikawa, turned over the checks in a simple ceremony yesterday at the lobby of the Garapan hotel. NMTI and Make-A-Wish staff received the donation.

Nishikawa and Hyatt food and beverage director Ty Pauling thanked everyone who helped them in the golf tournament from the sponsors to the volunteers. The tournament raised a total of $52,000 with NMTI and Make-A-Wish receiving $26,000 each.

"Their event partners, sponsors, golf players, and volunteer associates will grant wishes for our Make-A-Wish Foundation recipients and open new opportunities for NMTI," said Nishikawa.

"Goals are met and relationships are forged when we take care of our community with shared commitment and partnership. The impact we made for the past 20 years and this year would not have been possible without [their] continued involvement and dedication."

Pauling added that Hyatt's partners and sponsors in the golf tournament again exceeded their expectations. "We are thankful to all the good golfers who joined the fundraising tournament and also to the sponsors that helped us organize the event. We wouldn't have achieved this without their help."

JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas Trades Institute chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, third left, receives the ceremonial check amounting to $26,000 as donation from Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, fourth left, in a simple turnover ceremony yesterday at the hotel's lobby.

JON PEREZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, third left, turns over the check to Make-A-Wish Foundation executive director Victor P. Camacho, front third left, and board members Kanae Quinn, front second left, and Eleanor Cabrera, front fourth left, yesterday.

"I would also like to thank our team of hardworking and dedicated volunteer associates who initiated the planning and organizing of the event this year. Their extra attention to detail ensured the event ran smoothly," said Pauling.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said the money would be used to buy computers to help their students get certified nationally.

"We're going to use their donation to buy computers for the students to get their national certification, especially for the culinary arts. Hotels on Saipan also provide workshops to our hotel and restaurant operations students after they pass the test," said McPhetres.

She added that the other project of their carpentry and construction students helping repair the damages in some of the facilities at the House of Maturana in Navy Hill be getting a different funding.

"That will be the on-the-job training of our carpentry and construction students but that will have a different funding. The Rotary Club of Saipan and the Rotary Club of Guam will join hands for the project," said McPhetres.

The Rotary Club of Saipan also had an on-the-spot fundraising activity in yesterday's meeting at Hyatt's Giovanni's restaurant where $600 was raised. The money will be added to the fund for the repair of the House of Maturana.

The impromptu fundraiser is a bet by the Rotary Club of Saipan to vice president Brian Clayton. The bet is Clayton would shave his head if they raised $600.

Rotary Saipan president Curtis Dancoe, Mike Dilly, Ivan Ilmov, Mike Sablan, Pete Schilling, and Mario Valentino donated $100 each.

Make-A-Wish executive director Victor P. Camacho said they have been recipients of proceeds from the annual golf tournament since 1998. "It was something that they first did internally and as the years go by the donation increases. That's why we are truly grateful to Hyatt's staff and management, they have been supportive for many years."

Make-A-Wish kids in Guam and the CNMI will have their wishes granted because of Hyatt's generosity. "The money donated by Hyatt will be used for the region, for granting wishes of kids in Guam and the CNMI. There are three more kids on Saipan that will have their wishes granted by the end of the year."

Make-A-Wish Foundation recipient Jasmine Guanzon, whose wish of seeing and spending time with her mom who works in Hong Kong, is now also working at the Hyatt. She is suffering from papillary carcinoma—the most common form of thyroid cancer and wrote Make-A-Wish when she was 16 years old.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Marpi Point Field Remedial Investigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to attend a public meeting on the date, time, and location stated below during which Marpi Point Field remedial investigation (RI) findings and recommendations will be presented. The RI was performed in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) to characterize munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC), to identify and quantify associated MEC hazards and MC risks, and to provide documentation supporting a feasibility study for future remedial action at the site if necessary. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to answer your questions concerning DERP-FUDS and elements of the Marpi Point Field RI.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2016
Meeting Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: U.S. Army Reserve Center, Saipan, Building G

For more information about the upcoming Marpi Point Field RI meeting, please contact Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4088
Fax: 808.835.4129
E-Mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED FOR
14 CFR PART 139 CERTIFICATION

CPA-RFP-015-16

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting seals proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from individuals, professional firms, companies and/or corporations to provide instructional training services specific to airports pertaining to the requirements imposed by 14 CFR Part 139, and related federal airport and safety policies applicable to airfield operations and Part 139 certificate holders including programs contained in the Airport Certification Manual (ACM). The successful proposer shall conduct instructional programs at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) facility, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than **4:30 PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016.** Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as 'Confidential' and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

A Proposal Package consisting of the Scope of Work and further details is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 13, 2016

VICENTE T. SALAS, ESQ.
Law Office Of Vicente T. Salas
P.O. Box 501309, San Jose
2nd Floor, MIC Building
SAIPAN, MP 96950-1309
Telephone No. (670) 234-7455
Telecopier No. (670) 234-7256

Attorney for: Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- VINCENT A. MANGLONA, BENITA A. MANGLONA, V.B. MANGLONA ENTERPRISES, TONGA GARDENS, PASEO DRIVE INCORPORATED, GUAM ISLA LP GAS AND APPLIANCE and MOBIL OIL MICRONESIA, INC. Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0194-CV **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona in the following described, real properties situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Fee simple title to:

Tract No. 22102, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2048/77 the original of which was registered 23 APR 79 as Document No. 8162 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Tract No 22214, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3017/87 the original of which was registered 28 FEB 89 as Document No. 89-0624 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Lot No. 053 R 01, Rota, containing an area of 535 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 053 R 00 the original of which was registered 19 JAN 94 as Document No. 94-0176 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Lot No. 001 R 07, Rota, containing an area of 836 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 R 00 the original of which was registered 21 NOV 71 as Document No. 1288 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Leasehold Interest to:

Lot No. 017 R 01, Rota, containing an area of 929 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 017 R 00 the original of which was recorded 29 JUL 87 as Document No. 87-2715 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Lot No. 044 R 04, Rota, containing an area of 6,626 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 044 R 00 the original of which was registered 28 APR 77 as Document No. 6031 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Lot No. 044 R 12, Rota, containing an area of 3,197 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 044 R 00 the original of which was registered 28 APR 77 as Document No. 6031 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Lot No. 001 R 25, Rota, containing an area of 735 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 R 00 the original of which was registered 12 NOV 71 as Document No. 1288 at Land Registry, Saipan.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. on Friday May 27. 2016,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**

2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235 7147; or to Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234 7256.

5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona in the property and any improvements thereon are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 04 day of May, 2016.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

2016 PCF 'Fellows' meet with Torres, other leaders

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Pacific Century Fellow Program, Marianas Charter 2016 "Fellows" pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during a meeting last April 28.

The Pacific Century Fellow Program, Marianas Charter 2016 Cohort consists of 15 community leaders with various backgrounds from a variety of occupations in both the private and public sectors. Once a month they have a session in which they meet with leaders in the Marianas. Their first session focused on the government and was held on April 28, 2016.

The "Fellows" had great dialogues and interaction with our community leaders. They started their day engaging with the CNMI's Covenant Negotiators—Oscar Cruz Rasa, Pedro "Pete" A. Tenorio, and Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero.

The Fellows then met with the CNMI's first elected Attorney General, Edward Manibusan. Shortly after, they had a session with Michael S. Sablan, who provided guidance and insight on the topic of legal ethics in government. The Fellows had a lunch session with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and later met with the 19th Commonwealth Legislature, including Speaker Ralph Demapan, Senate vice president Arnold Palacios, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, vice speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, and Reps. George Camacho, Angel Demapan, B.J. Attao, Vinson Sablan, Francis Taimanao, Ralph Yumul, and Ray Tebuteb.

The Fellows then proceeded to meet with NMI District Court Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, followed by a final panel discussion with Chief Justice Alex Castro, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, and Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio of the NMI Courts.

The PCF Program participants are grateful for the time spent with all the leaders from all three branches of government, for the great dialogue on current issues and concerns. They found the interactions to be very educational and insightful. Fellow Jordan Sundell said, "We appreciate the government's openness to engage in a full and frank discussion about the challenges and opportunities confronting the island." Fellow Beau Tomokane added, "I feel priviledged to be a part of the PCF program. We've gathered twice and already we have learned so much together. Our Government Day has improved my understanding of the various offices we've visited. I'm so thankful for the opportunities PCF has to offer and the diverse network I am a part of."

The Pacific Century Fellows Program-Marianas Chapter, Class of 2016 is comprised of Charles Brasington, assistant attorney general, CNMI Office of the Attorney General; Brady J. Hammond, department chair, Northern Marianas College; Catherine M. Attao, VP for Corporate Affairs, Tan Holdings; Carline B. Sablan, economic development analyst, Commonwealth Development Authority; Janice Anne E. Castro, executive assistant, Alter City Group Inc.; Laarni P. Zapanta, account support specialist-Customer Operations, IT&E; Maryann B. Arriola, senior staff specialist, Office of Grants Management; Alexis P. Cabrera, project manager Public Relations/Project Management, Imperial International (CNMI), LLC: Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr, manager/executive assistant, JCA, Inc; Jordan C. Sundell, lawyer, Bridge Capital, LLC; Charles P. Reyes, Jr, attorney, Law Office of Charles Reyes, Russelle T. Zapanta, operations manager, Realty Management Services; Derek B. Gersonde, public information officer/Firefighter/EMT, Department of Fire & EMS; Beau Q. Tomokane, operations service manager, Delta Airlines, Inc. and Brad E. Ruszala, executive director, Sports, Entertainment and Activities, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.

This third cohort of leaders meet on a monthly basis, participating in Professional Development sessions with various leaders and departments. This program will continue to the month of November, and a class graduation is set for December. For more information on the PCF, please go to: www.pcf-marianas.com. ***(PR)***

ARC: 30th Annual Walkathon a big success

The recent American Red Cross-NMI Chapter walkathon included more than 3,000 participants on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who enjoyed a fun-filled morning of exercise and activities, all while supporting the work of the American Red Cross. The Chapter received over $90,000 in donations to support the Red Cross humanitarian work here in the CNMI.

"We had another amazing turn out from our students," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, Red Cross Board chair. "I know thousands of families where helped by the Red Cross after Typhoon Soudelor and this was their opportunity to give back."

Oleai Elementary School was again a huge supporter, winning three major categories including largest number of walkers (287), total amount of donations ($12,933), and the student with the highest amount collected ($761.55).

Honorable mentions go out to Mt. Carmel and Garapan elementary schools for their large number of walkers as well as Agape Christian Academy ($5,821) and WSR Elementary School ($3,750) for their walkers donations. There were 221 students who raised $75 or more and will receive a Pacific Islands Club Saipan waterpark pass, and $5 gift cards from McDonald's, Subway, and Hollywood Theater. Special recognition also goes out to Bank of Hawaii for the most spirited aid station.

Congratulations again to all the students, parents, coordinators, and to the business community for supporting the 30th Annual Red Cross Walkathon. For more information about the Walkathon and the Red Cross, please call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

CONTRBITED PHOTO
Face-painting was just one of the activities participants enjoyed during the recent American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 30th Annual Walkathon.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 18, 2000

U.S. Navy orders sub to leave Saipan dock

Citing security concerns, ranking U.S. Navy officials from Washington ordered military submarine personnel to stay away from near the shore shortly after it arrived and docked at the Saipan International Harbor yesterday morning. The undersea vessel and its crew were welcomed by local government officials headed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Its presence near the shore where the public can apparently have easy access to at least come near the submarine may pose security concerns since USS Columbus is considered a highly classified U.S. military vessel. A 362-foot, 6,927-ton undersea vessel, USS Columbus is well equipped to carry out missions that include deployment of special forces, minelaying, precision land attack or anti-submarine or surface warfare while remaining undetected.

Bill seeks compensation for toxic waste exposure

A bill under review in the House of Representatives will allow island residents who have been exposed to toxic substances beyond the permissible federal level to seek compensation from manufacturers and handlers responsible for bringing the poisonous chemicals here. Offered by Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, HB 12-177 comes in the wake of the planned class action suit against federal agencies and the manufacturers of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) which has contaminated the village of Tanapag on Saipan. Toxic substances covered by the proposed law will include the PBC, dioxins, furans or halogenated chlorofuluoroalkanes. Federally permitted levels of exposure will encompass those established by federal regulatory agencies, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

May 18, 2004

'Taxi bill won't ensure survival of taxi biz'

The bill that mandates insurance for taxicabs, which recently passed the House of Representatives, would not ensure the continued existence of the taxi business in the CNMI, according to an insurance firm official. Ely Buenaventura, general manager of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (CNMI) Inc., stressed yesterday that House Bill 14-166, now heading to the Senate, would not guarantee that all taxicabs would get insurance coverage as proposed under the measure. Instead, he proposed that the Legislature amend the existing Taxi Law to provide for the same coverage limit as before—15-30-15 coverage for body and property damage—which is the same rate given to other vehicles such as vans and buses. The bill, which passed the House last week, recommended that the minimum coverage of 25-50-25 and an Assigned Risk Plan for motor vehicle liability insurance be established.

BoE: Give us the money

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero continues to push for the release of operational funds for the Public School System. Guerrero, who was given a tour of the William S. Reyes Elementary School on Friday, was prompted to comment on the need for the government to take a proactive role in education after seeing several classrooms with broken air conditioners and walls infested by termites. Guerrero said the money PSS receives is for personnel, but it is in "great need" of operational funds, as it will provide necessary renovations to classrooms. The BoE member said WSR's situation is one of the many problems schools in the CNMI are facing due to the lack of operational funds.

May 18, 2005

2 Hiroshima atomic bomb survivors to visit the CNMI

Two survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bombing at the close of World War II will be visiting the CNMI this August to recount the horrific event through the Hibakusha Experience. One of the survivors set to visit the islands is Keijiro Matsushima, a member of Hibakusha, loosely translated to mean survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. He is also a member of the Atomic Bomb Teacher's Transmit Experiences of Hiroshima. Matsushima is expected to share his experience from the events that transpired on Aug. 6, 1945, which, along with the bombing of Nagasaki three days later, are widely regarded as the turning points that bought Japan to the peace table, ending World War II.

'Anatahan eruptions likely to continue for months to years'

Federal and local agencies yesterday convened to start laying the groundwork for an operating plan for volcanic ash hazards in the CNMI, with the U.S. Geological Survey projecting that renewed volcanic activity on Anatahan would be likely for months to years. The USGS also predicted that eruptions of other Mariana volcanoes are possible in the future, based on previous behavior. There has been one volcanic eruption every three to four years Mariana-wide, according to the USGS. In a joint report, the USGS and the EMO said ash emissions continue despite low eruptive activity, which was characterized by occasional earthquakes.

'Army JROTC teaches you leadership'

By MACKENZIE PEREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The 24th Military Ball held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort last Saturday was attended by different public high schools in the CNMI. The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion was this year's host. It also celebrated the 100th anniversary of JROTC. The Army JROTC was created in 1916 to motivate young people to become better citizens.

Public School System associate commissioner Yvonne Pangelinan was the guest speaker. According to Pangelinan "You cannot have leadership without citizenship, and you cannot be a good citizen without leadership." I fully agree.

I should say I am far from being a good citizen but my training under the JROTC has made me a better person. It schooled me about life's challenges, it taught me how to become a good leader; and it educated me far beyond the spectrum of military training.

The Military Ball was not just an avenue to party but also to build camaraderie amongst the different battalions. It promotes team spirit and fosters goodwill among the participating schools. It is the culminating event for the JROTC as it closes the school year.

My experience with the JROTC is far from over, in fact, it only just began. I'm looking forward to learn new things, to gain more knowledge in becoming a leader and to future competition that we can all excel at. I strongly encourage all upcoming freshmen to take up JROTC because it not only teaches great values in life and it also helps weaklings like me to become stronger. Game strong. Army strong.

C/SGT Mackenzie Perez is a member of the Marianas High School Dolphin Battalion. She is a freshman at MHS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cadets from Saipan Southern High School pose for a picture during Saturday's celebration of the Military Ball.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas High School Dolphin Battalion Cadets joined the 24th JROTC Military Ball. At right is the author C/SGT Mackenzie Perez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, C/LTC Lacson Philippe (Ayuyu Battalion), C/LTC Jemimah Cruz (Stallion Battalion), C/LTC Annika Matias (Manta Ray Battalion), C/LTC George Bisala (Buck Battalion), and C/LTC Mary Grace Tiglao (Dolphin Battalion) attended the 24th JROTC Military Ball.

Saipan Southern High School Saber and Color Guard opened the ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BankPacific promotes Evaristo to SVP, credit administrator

Evaristo

Philip J. Flores, chairman and president of BankPacific, announced Byron Evaristo has been promoted to the position of senior vice president and credit administrator by the members the board of directors.

Prior to his promotion, Evaristo was in charge of the bank's commercial and consumer lending functions. In his new position, Evaristo is now responsible for the bank's system wide lending functions including consumer, auto, dealer paper, residential mortgage and commercial lending operations as well as related loan support functions and servicing operations.

"Byron is a knowledgeable and energetic member of our BankPacific Team," said Flores. "He has a tremendous work ethic and the ability to quickly grasp technical detail. He has moved up through the bank quickly and we look forward to his contributions toward the continued success of BankPacific's system-wide lending operations."

Evaristo is a 2004 graduate of the University of Guam where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics. He joined BankPacific shortly after graduation.

He will be attending the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington this summer. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting set for Thursday, May 19th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Saipan Mayor's Office Conference Room, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from April 21, 2016
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
   1. Administrator
   2. Acting-Chair, Juan K. Tenorio
   3. COMMITTEES
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Action- Revised Priority Fields List
   2. Action-SHEFA Mission Statement
   3. SHEFA on Disability
V. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Spring 2016 Application Status
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED)
VII. NEXT MEETING
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Nicholas Jr., S. and Gloria I. Ramon
PMB 357 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 483-2149

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO.: 16-0194
NI, XIN YI Minor Child By:	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
NICHOLAS JR. S. AND GLORIA I. RAMON Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 2, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2016.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
CLERK OF COURT

/S/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney For Petitioner/Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ELEANOR B. DELOS REYES, Decedent.	Civil Action No. 16-0079E NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ELEANOR B. DELOS REYES OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, **Bank of Guam** of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letter of Administration of the **Estate of Eleanor B. Delos Reyes, Decedent.** The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. BOX 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Bank of Guam, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on June 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, G*uma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing .

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 28th day of April, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 98

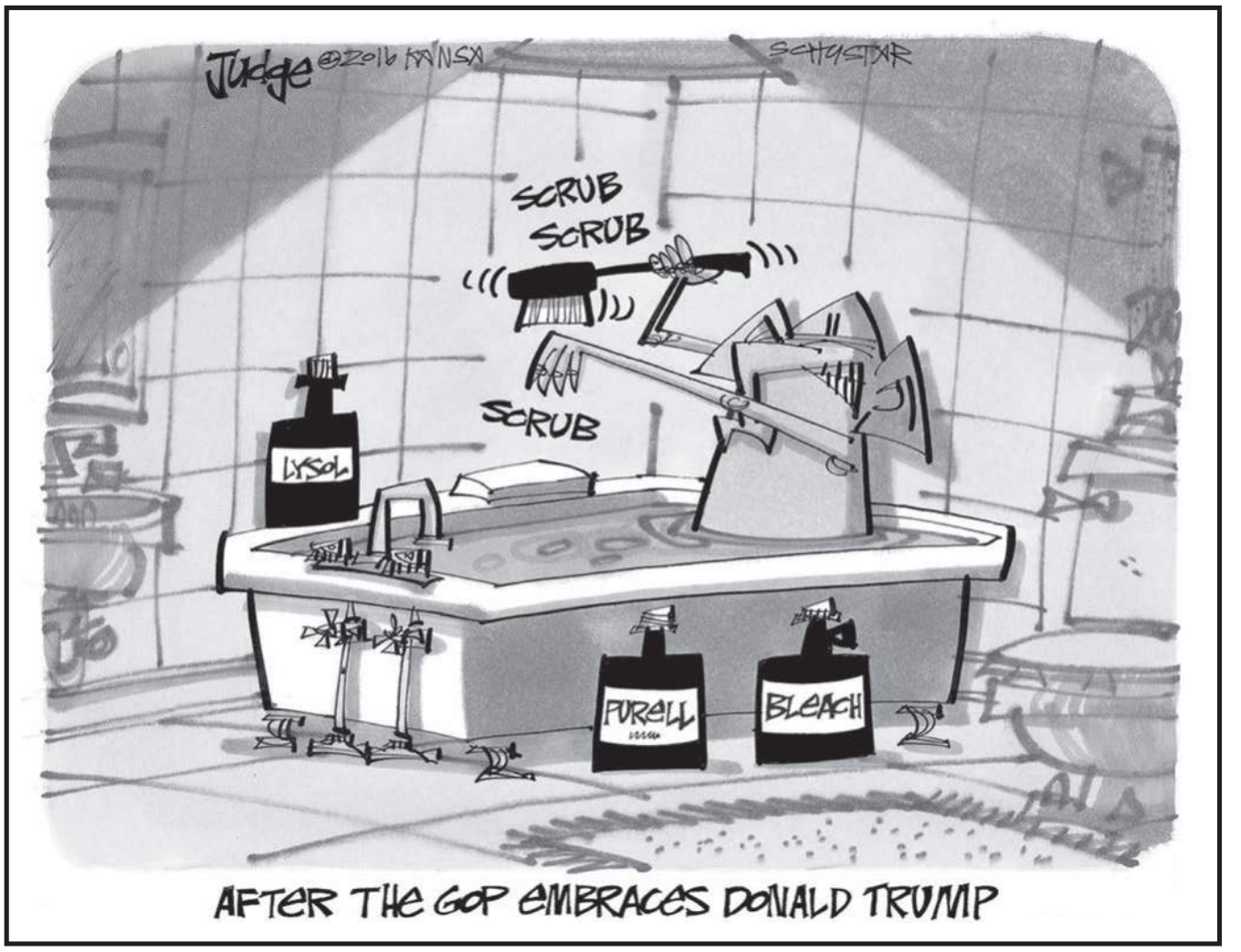
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Avoiding a quagmire in Iraq

Almost five years ago, President Barack Obama delivered a speech in which he acknowledged—and claimed credit for—the fact that the last U.S. combat troops would soon be leaving Iraq. "The tide of war is receding," Obama said on Oct. 21, 2011.

What Obama didn't anticipate was that the Islamic State, an offshoot of al-Qaida in Iraq, would seize large amounts of territory in Iraq and Syria, inspiring and orchestrating terrorist attacks in the West. So in 2014 Obama promised to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State, but without getting "dragged into another ground war in Iraq."

So far, the president has abided by that pledge. Yet signs of mission creep in Iraq are multiplying. There are now about 4,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, officially in a training and advisory role but increasingly in harm's way. After a Navy SEAL was killed coming to the rescue of Kurdish and Christian fighters near Mosul, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said: "It is a combat death, of course."

More such casualties are possible as U.S. forces assist in the counteroffensive designed to expel the Islamic State from territory it occupies, a campaign that has achieved some success but faces significant challenges. Even if the casualty count remains small, the history of U.S. military involvement in the Middle East—and elsewhere, notably Vietnam—will inspire concern that the U.S. is on a slippery slope to just the sort of large-scale commitment Obama has forsworn.

One way to counter such concerns—and constrain Obama and his successor—is for Congress to approve an Authorization for Use of Military Force against the Islamic State. Strangely, the administration is conducting its campaign against that group under resolutions passed during the George W. Bush administration that provided authorization both for retaliation against al-Qaida after the Sept. 11 attacks and for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

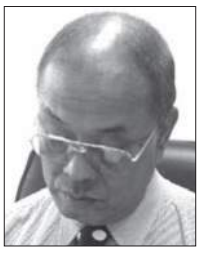
Obama has proposed a three-year AUMF that supposedly would rule out a repeat of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, but its wording could justify lengthy and large-scale deployments so long as they were described as temporary and defensive. Congress needs to adopt more restrictive language.

Even if Congress imposes limits on U.S. involvement, the depressing prospect for the foreseeable future is that the U.S.—ideally with more support from its regional allies—will be engaged in a significant and at times dangerous struggle with the Islamic State and similar groups, with no guarantee of achieving all of its objectives. For example, even if the Islamic State were defeated in Iraq and Syria, political instability in both countries and elsewhere could give rise to similar insurgencies. As even the intervention-averse Obama has realized, it is impossible to extricate the U.S. entirely from a conflict that's metastasizing in many locations.

The tide of war has receded, but not as far as he or we thought in 2011.

©2016 *Los Angeles Times*

Lache Na Disposision



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Makatkula ni konsuttadot CUC na balin $5-miyon pesus na maliñgun kandet guaha gi sakan guine. Ha apunta lokue` huyuñg na lache i para i publiku u kinatga apas ayu na diskuidu.

Hafa na masede este na diskuidu ni CUC? Yangin i publiku umusa, komprendiyon. Lau tai patte i publiku guine na kesañg.

Dispues, ni ti kalamten i administrasion para una` dinanche este na kastigu gi publiku ni tampoku i lehislatura. Todu i dos fumatkeluye proteksion man-inosiente guine na asuntu.

Mampos namanman i chagu` tasi entalu` publiku yan offisiat gi hegsu` imperadot I Deni`. Kase mauleg tafaisen na u fanunog pot un` ratu papa` gi señgsoñg pot para u ekuñgog sentiment-ta, apaga` pot apaga`. Siña masoda` na mangaige hit ha` guine deste ma`pos na eleksion.

Estague` `nai anog na taya` sensian satton na proteksion direchon publiku. Haf` taimanu tuñgo`ta na ti hita lokue` umapapase dibin gobietnu kandet poku mas o`menos $30 miyon pesus?

Maila` ta ekuñgog ñaihon haf` na disposision guaha para umakorihe disision dibi pot diskuidu yan appenas fitme na kualifikasion gi entalu` membron i board!

**Oi`!:** Dispues masañgane-yu` na malotgiye hanom i makonbikta na ginen gobietnu as Benigno Fitial ni fire truck. Entonsis na guaha nu este na setbisiu ni malimitte gi halom hagas yan presente na offisiat publiku? Umaprebeniye mohon u pumalu ni mantai koneksion potika? Haye sumede este na abusun usun trastes gobietnu? Ai, sa` esta pa`gu sige ha` man-flores simiyan che`chu` kriminat guine! Ke lau haye in` sesetbe?

Direchon Linahyan

Gaige gi santatte ekun bonitun dandan. I suaben sunidu kumonduduse katma hinasoghu gi kada hu baba i komputa (computer) para bai` fanaitai `sino fañgge`.

Hana`e-yu` tiempu manaitai, man-analisa, yan kumomprende i asuntu antes de bai tuge` dibuenamente haf` sineda`hu. Diariu este na eksisiu.

Huñgan, tai eskusu modun pinegan palabra-hu gi haf` tinige`hu siha. Frañku i palabra yan sentimientog-hu solamente pot proteksion man-inosiente ni sessu man-mafa` si kopas ni man-ma`gas siha. Homlu` na dibate yan inatuñgu` benefisiosu para membron komunida siha. Sañgan dibuenamente sentimentun miyu.

`Nai mattu i asuntu gi linahyan mas tai kampoyu` eskusun kadu`. Dispues este na offisiu debi un` tohge gi haf` tunas yan amtau piot para i inosiente. Hagu i guatdian yan konsensian publiku!

`An mana` pili`au hau `sino matogcha` abubumu pues inaligaumu. Sañgan opiñionmu gi asuntu sin unna` petsonat para un` suhaye chemchum sasata.

I keha ni huna` halom gi kotte pot abusun usun $400,000 na fondun publiku. Presisu na u guaha areglun lai gi proteksion man-inosiente. Ti siña na para kaprechun niha `nai maletke haf` ginagagau gi papa` lai konstitusion yan otru siha lai. Areglu!

Gi Tenidot Chalan

Para hita ni man-tufai, guaha kase `nai ta atan tatte finapos natibu desde antes piot gi halom potput ñieten tinilaika.

Hamyu in` hisga haf` ilelegña i pesadot: kau mauleg pat nachatsaga i man-masusesede pa`gu gi inatisan kuttura yan tradision. Sen sahñge i man-sañgan yan haf` mapraktitika desde halom guma` huyuñg.

Desde finagpu` gera, ta tutuhon umaregla tatte todu destrosiu. Humalom nuebu na modun linala` ni dumisplanta adumididi` ha`anita kontodu kuttura yan tradision-ta.

Pa`gu, mayotmiente gi famaguon-ta diariu ma-u`usa finu` Eñglis enlugat de hila` nanan niha. Diariu este na usu desde oga`an esta i oran deskansu. Megai ti tumuñgu` lagse` finu` Chamorro.

Man-mattu hit gi chalan tenidot ni maputa` dos. Sige pa`gu ta ebalua haf` sustansian linala` natibu gi halom rimulinon luminosu lau otru na modun lina`la`. Manu para ta-falague: akague pat agapa`?

Maputa` dos i natibu guine na asuntu. I unu ilegña mauleg ha` haf` gaige pa`gu mientras i otru mas metgot hinassun direchun natibu rumeskata haf` sustansiaña.

Lamegai na balan ginen hiyuñg chumalapon yan dumisplanta linala` natibu mina` mafattu pa`gu didog na kuestion siha haf` futtunaña? Manadan sakrifisiu este na puntu gi bandan segundu grupu. Taya` lokue` siña umoppe i kuestion soluke hita mismu. Mauleg ta tutuhon inadiñgan futtuna-ta. I asuntu debi hilu` amtau yan edukau na attura `nai ta diskute.

Muñga man-hinalañg sa` tat neñkanu` mapapañot sin mañgañgas. Siempre un` dia u mamtu` haf` tapega gi halom pachot-ta.

Diskuidu: Sige hu pesan ñaihon chechu` offisiat publiku na

See LACHE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insults and mistreatment of Luta's people

I couldn't help but to read the letter from the Tinian resident about legalization that was full of insults and the twisting of facts. First, he insulted the entire community of Rota by using in the title "Rotard" which implies every person on Rota is a "retard." This reminded me of the Civil Rights Movement and how all blacks were viewed as being substandard humans by many whites. You would think a person with Dr. in front of their name would know better than to make fun of all the people on Rota as we teach students today to avoid negative group stereotyping of any kind. I have agreed with the Dr. on many things he wrote about but I have to beg to respectfully differ on his opinion about legalization and I don't approve of his insulting explanation.

Yes the author did make a mistake by saying Colorado collected $2 billion when it was almost $1 billion (97,741,988) only $2.6 million short. But the Dr. took this mistake and used it to attack the author instead of just correcting the amount. He also twisted the facts and even asserted that legalization is not making a difference in the quality of life and safer roads. FYI Dr., the problem is what to do with all the money which is why states (23 this year) are lining up to legalize marijuana so states are benefiting and the tens of thousands of people working in the new marijuana industries of America are living better with high paying careers and the governments are improving their services. Dr. you also need to know that state legislatures are arguing over what to do with all the money and unlike the other states, the CNMI does not pay the federal taxes you were so adamant about. I respectfully ask that you wait until you have read all three parts of my essay which will be published and then make a determination on legalization because I can see you really don't get it and you are still stuck in the past when the future is changing NOW right before your eyes!

Dr., your age is not an advantage on the marijuana issue and in fact it hurts you because you are so set in your old ways. But if you have learned anything with your doctorate degree you should know that everything changes over time and smart people know or have learned how to go with the flow because the only other option is to drown figuratively—America is legalizing marijuana like it or not. I am just soooo glad and thankful that my daughters and students helped to keep my mind and attitude "young at heart" which has kept me from growing old and being a grouch who thinks he knows it all unlike the Dr. who seems to thinks being old makes him somehow better than the younger generation. FYI, God told us in the Bible that we can learn from the "ant" so you can learn from the young folk if you will listen with an open mind.

"The MV *Luta* lawsuit"—are we not our brother's keeper?

The lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Hocog and Finance Secretary Larson needs to be dropped if we are truly a family and our brother's keeper. The $400,000 that was loaned was not for personal use and they should be commended for finding a way to help all the people of Rota and be glad the lieutenant governor's family is trying to make life better for everyone on Rota. If not the lieutenant governor's family, then who and if not now then when—will Rota's needs be addressed? So please show some respect and compassion for your brother in our CNMI family by dropping the darn suit—it's like one brother suing his parents for loaning money to the other brother—duh! The more Rota can help itself the easier the job of funding Rota will be for the CNMI government. In fact, I think the Legislature should make the money a free "transportation subsidy" because everyone knows Rota has been suffering for years from the lack of shipping to Rota. Rota is delicious and our brother so let's treat Rota like a true family member of the CNMI—it is really that simple! PS: I have learned from personal experiences that the lieutenant governor is an honest and honorable man so we can trust that the money will be returned if the Legislature doesn't want to just give the money to Rota as a subsidy. I didn't use any names because it's about the issue of legalization and I have respect for both authors.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

On the passing of math

I have been a student for a long time. I'm not just talking about being a life-long learner, but as a student in pursuit of a higher educational degree. My greatest hang up in my studies has been my loathing of mathematics. I first took Algebra back in the late '80s in the 9th grade and as it so happens I also earned my first "F" in school. Summer school before my sophomore year earned me another "F"antastic grade in Algebra, and I was frustrated. I just couldn't get it. Finally in my senior year, my counselor placed me in Career Math, which was great. I learned to balance my checkbook, count correct change, and write a check properly. These are things I could use in my life, not Suffice it to say I passed the class, although with only a "D."

After high school I heard of this term Dyscalculia: difficulty learning or comprehending arithmetic, such as difficulty in understanding numbers, learning how to manipulate numbers, and learning facts in mathematics. It is generally seen as a specific developmental disorder. Maybe this was something I was struggling with? Or was I just being lazy?

A few years back my older son was in junior high school he started bringing home Algebra homework. I was at a loss to help him. It seemed my shortcomings were going to ultimately affect his learning as well. I spoke with a good friend, who is a teacher and math enthusiast, on how I could best help my boy. He graciously offered to tutor my son during lunch (he worked at the same junior high). My son would have to come into the Resource Room (Special Education Department) for help. I asked my son if that was OK for him, because there is a stigma attached to students who go to SPED for tutoring. He told me he didn't care, as long as he passed his class. Getting the help he needed was his priority.

Twenty-six years after my first failure in conquering Algebra, I finally had to step up and do something about it. Math was the one thing holding me back from moving forward toward my degree. I enrolled in Math 91 and a semester later Math 132 at NMC. The instructors at the college helped me understand concepts in new and different ways than I learned back in my high school years. The way one student solves a problem may be quite different from how another solves the same problem. This opened my eyes to a whole new way of learning. Through hard work and perseverance I finally completed this basic requirement to continue on my educational journey and I thank my instructors who made this possible.

As I prepare to take the PRAXIS exam, I think back on my struggles with this subject, and I think about students today who may also be experiencing the challenges I faced. For those where dyscalculia is a reality, there are resources for you in the public schools and accommodations of which you can avail in college. The first step is breaking down the barriers of stigma and asking for the help you need.

For more information about services for students with specific learning disabilities or accommodations while pursuing your college degree, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4.

Greg Borja
NMPASI projects specialist

How to stop more $400,000 swindles?

At last a "local boy" with cajones! John Del Rosario Jr. just slammed the local government and its local and corrupt "leadership" with his lawsuit against house resolution 19-3. Certainly, other local and concerned citizens have written letters to the editor about governmental corruption but stopped short of what Del Rosario did. Six years ago "local gal" former Rep. Tina Sablan started the ball rolling with her passage of the Open Government Act. Glen Hunter followed with his successful prosecution of the lawmakers responsible for the illegal Saipan Casino Act. Del Rosario, however, has always been on the periphery if not an insider to what is described as local polibullphart. He's been where no one has. A former newspaper publisher, DPL executive, and staunch believer in you-do-the-crime-you-do-the-time, John recently filed a lawsuit against he-with-a-checkered-past now Lt. Gov. Vic Hocog, and converted to corruption Finance Secretary Larrisa Larsen. What for? Criminal deception: to help fuel and repair a cargo ship, MV *Luta*, that a kind Japanese investor spent $3.5M of his own money to assist the poor and helpless natives of Rota. Jungle smart Hocog spotted an easy prey and went for the jugular.Or in Rota-speak, laughing DPW gunslingers complete in mandatory camouflage paint blasting out the trees hundreds of endangered fruit bats with an AK47 just for s**ts and giggles. But enough of the jokes let's get this story straight.

Everybody's doing it so why not me— Hocog understood all to well that House resolution 19-3 he crafted to loot $400,000 of taxpayers' monies, fool the gullible investor, bully the go-along-get-along Rota delegation to vote in its favor—without public notice or discussion to five our monies to his relatives the Mendiola family—was constitutionally unlawful and violated CNMI ethics At.

Delaying justice—Enter Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. He said he didn't "read" the lawsuit, yet, but still beaned Del Rosario's lawsuit by providing "cover," a way out for Hocog and himself. In what way? By reminding us of the desperate plight of the poor people of Rota and "thanks to Vic" how the MV *Luta* will rescue them from a fate akin to death and that he, personally, shall solve the problem. In an upcoming election year. But which one: food, shelter, clothing, and high prices on Rota OR preventing Hocog/Larsen/Mendiola family from going to the slammer? But wait. Weren't DLG Torres and Hocog part of the cabal (including speaker Ralph Demapan) and 15 House and seven Senate lawmakers laying low, that openly broke the law by secretly passing the exclusive casino license couple years back? And they're still in office, doing it all over again, middle-finger to us. It gets deeper and smells worse as I write.

Exposing the crime—it is said that you're innocent until proven guilty. Forget it. Here's Del Rosario's real "allegations" and why justice should be meted out. 1) Violation of the Open Government Act. 2) Breach of Fiduciary Duties. 3) Improper purpose in official capacity. 4) Public funds expended not for public purpose. 5) Failure to provide full and reasonable documents. 6) Resolution 19-3 was not placed on agenda of the Rota delegation session March 20, 2015.

More excrement—The incorporated MV *Luta* did not enter into any repayment plans of the $400,000 to Finance or any other

See LETTERS on Page 13

SENATOR

From Page 10

biahe. Ni planu taya`. Ni kompas pot kinalamten, apenas. Masotta i publiku para u dibinan maisague` gi kaprichoña. Maliñgu kabales na sensian usun luseru.

Lau hana`en maisa familiaña segundu gobietnu as Biktot Hokog $400,000 para apas batkon niha MV Luta. Tatnai huli`e este masusede desde 40 años antes.

Asuntun ekonomia i makina ni dumetetmimina kualidat linala` tautau. Mampos chafleg este na patte gi ha`anita. Todu lumili`e lau ni unu malagu` humihot pot para u tahlañg haf` taimanu `nai siña mabira ya u bintaha para i tautau. Mientras tantu sige ha` mafondu kualidat linala`ta.

Na ti este na administrasion man-promesa satbasion para adelantun linala` enteru iya Marianas? Haf` na mampos abarambau hinanau galaide`ta?

Latigasu: Umakilili` si Champuladu yan Tarugu` ginen finagpu` nobenan bisinu para uma-amte iridan piliau siha.

Si Champuladu i bachet na esklabon Tarugu`. Maseha haf` ma-otden siempre u fan osge sa` pinepe`lu na tai kabesague`. Osgun gi todu matago`ña.

Gi kada iridau si Champuladu, umatog gi halom karetaña man-hassu kuantu mas na fina` mattirun kopas para umana`yan gi fina`pos semana. Namase` i prohimu ni chumahlau mana` kahaga` sin motibu. Kasse pot tai hinassu yan osgun mina` guiya tiradot Tarugu`.

`Nai umasoda` yan Magoo kinantaye "Kaduku", kantan mayute`. Dios mihu!

Natibu: Kahulu dineskuten haye natibun este siha na perlas. I estorian lepblu ilegña na parehu Chamorro yan Karolinas manmattu mage gi boten layag ginen otru tanu`.

Hu rikonose lokue` i Santa Biblia manu i Saina `nai ha pega i Chamorro `nai ha chalapon todu rasan tautau gi enteru elmundo. Ni rasan Chamorro ti mamente tampoku manu `nai mapega.

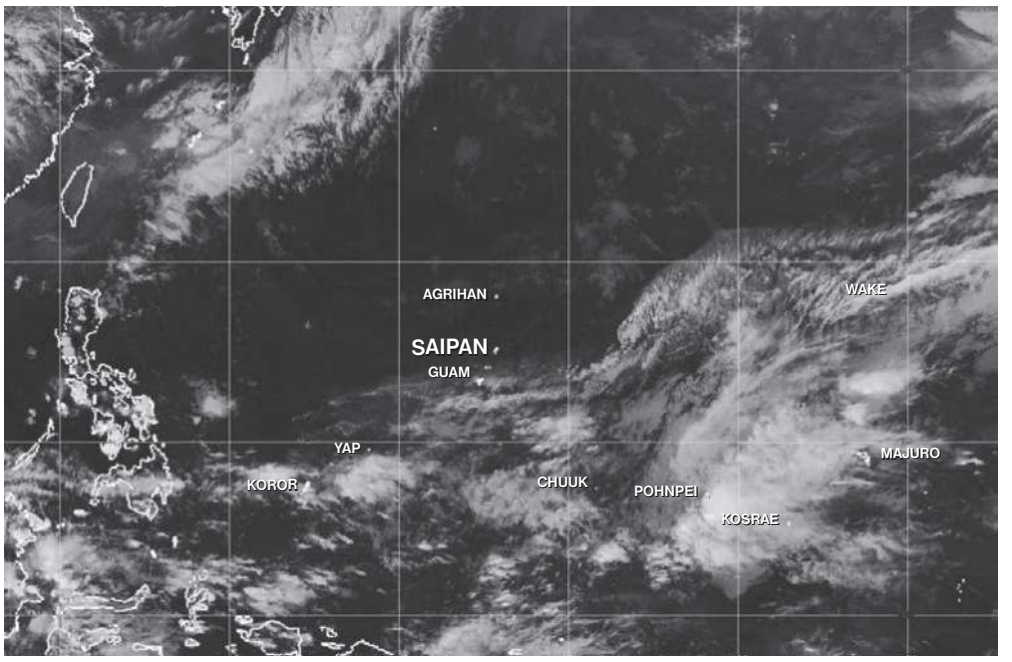
I finapos tautau taigue gi haga`ña soluke ginen animuña gi hilu` tradision respetu, integredat, hinimidde, geftau sensian inasi`i, yan yine`ase` gi otru.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:29 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Wake Island north of 23N from 165E to 173E. A band of trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Koror to southwest of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 7N135E to 7N140E. Similar conditions are seen south of Yap within 40 miles of a line from 4N137E to 3N140E and east-southeast of Yap to southwest of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 7N142E to 5N149E. Two trade-wind disturbances Pohnpei and Kosrae are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 3N and 11N from 156E to 165E. Isolated thunderstorms due to trade-wind convergence are seen northeast of Kosrae between 12N and 13N from 166E to 169E northeast of Majuro near 8N174E and east-southeast of Majuro near 5N177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲67	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼59
Hong Kong	Showers	▲81	▼77
Honolulu	Windy	▲85	▼73
London	Rain	▲59	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
New York	Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Osaka	Sunny	▲81	▼59
Paris	Rain	▲64	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲78	▼56
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼53
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼58
Washington, DC	Rain	▲57	▼51

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
6:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:09 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:47 PM	3:16 AM
Thursday	4:34 PM	3:54 AM
Friday	5:21 PM	4:34 AM
Saturday	6:10 PM	5:15 AM
Sunday	6:59 PM	5:57 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Maratita wins Gold's Gym Fitness Challenge

In February 2016, 45 participants from Saipan enrolled in the 12-week Gold's Gym Challenge—giving individuals the opportunity to transform their bodies in just 12 weeks. Audie Maratita was announced the overall winner, while male and female winners were also announced in two different age categories. Additionally, a "Most Inspirational Award" was presented:

- Overall winner: Audie Maratita
- 1st Men's 40+ : Rob Epley
- 2nd Men's 40+ : Tony Yarobwemal
- 3rd Men's 40+: Greg De Leon
- 1st Women's 40+: Dee Clayton
- 2nd Women's 40+: Irene Cristobal
- 3rd Women's 40+: Maria Camacho
- 1st Men's 18-39: Michael Babauta
- 2nd Men's 18-39: Frank Rosario
- 3rd Men's 18-39: Michael Flores
- 1st Women's 18-39: Alfreda Camacho
- 2nd Women's 18-39: Diane Mallari
- 3rd Women's 18-39: Brittany Hodge
- Most Inspirational: Jake Deleon Guerrero

Throughout the three-month span of the Challenge, participants from Saipan with Gold's Gym trainers and/or on their own were challenged to transform their lives, and a chance to win their share of $5,000 in cash prizes. With 45 members participating at Gold's Gym Saipan, the results were astounding.

Two-thirds of the contestants returned for their final assessment, shedding an amazing 468.2 lbs. For these contestants the average weight loss was an incredible 16.7 lbs or 9 percent of their original body weight.

"We could not be more proud of our Challenge winners for their tremendous success, and are thrilled to have played a role in their transformations," said Tyce Mister, general manager of Gold's Gym Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of the 12-week Gold's Gym Challenge pose for a group photo with their trainers during the awards ceremony held last Saturday at Kanoa Resort..

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and trainers join the winners of 12-week Gold's Gym Challenge in a group photo.

An awards banquet was held on Saturday, May 14, at the Kanoa Resort. Maratita, 2016 Challenge Overall Winner, who shed 44.5 lbs shared, "This Challenge has given me the opportunity to reevaluate my life for my family. It has given me time to reflect on how life is way too precious to see it go to waste…These past (12) weeks have been one heck of a journey for me. I have come to realize who I am, what I am capable of doing, and where I need to continue to go. This challenge was not a competition with the rest of the challengers. My true competitor was me to be the best I can for my Shannon (daughter)."

Rob Epley, winner of the Men's 40+ category shared, "The best way to get positive results in life is to be surrounded by positive and motivated people. The Gold's Gym staff has been that positive support group for me during the Challenge. Jerry Diaz has been my personal trainer during the Challenge. He meets me at the gym at 5:3am, every Monday and Wednesday to guide, teach and inspire me. The entire Gold's Gym staff is always ready with a kind word, compliment, or smile."

Jake Deleon Guerrero was honored with the "Most Inspirational" award. Last year Deleon Guerrero was paralyzed in a devastating car accident. He stated, "I want to inspire others to take on the challenges they face in life, because we truly only have one life to live. I was given a second chance in life, and all I can do is hope that when others hear of my story, they learn from my experience and make a positive change in themselves."

This 2016 Gold's Gym Challenge could not have happened without the support of the awesome challenge partners:

- Michelob Ultra brought to you by MarPac
- PHI Pharmacy
- Subway / Foremost / Coca-Cola
- Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center
- Bridge Capital
- Saipan Apparel
- Hyatt Regency
- Pena House Boutique & Salon
- T Galleria
- Pacific Islands Club

For more information on Gold's Gym Saipan check them out on Facebook or go to: http://goldsgymsaipan.blogspot.com/

About Gold's Gym

Since 1965 Gold's Gym has built a Legacy of Strength—a legacy that goes back to the very first Gold's Gym in Venice, California. Fifty years later, Gold's Gym is the most recognized gym chain in the world with more than 700 locations in 38 states and 23 countries. Gold's Gym offers the latest equipment and services, including group exercise, personal training, cardiovascular equipment, group cycle, Pilates, and yoga. With nearly 3 million members worldwide, Gold's Gym helps all kinds of people achieve their potential through fitness. ***(PR)***

LETTERS

From Page 11

government agency, kumbaya. So what? MV *Luta* (remember that the Japanese investor spent millions of his own money and bought the ship; not one penny came from the Mendiolas) and the Mendiolas Abelina, Deron, and Fidel had no legal right to blow $400,000 of taxpayers' monies. And Slick Vic's "smoke and mirrors", supposedly, to pay back the $400,000 loan to Finance Larsen within one year? All B/S the deadline long past. And get this: Learning well from Slick Vic the Mendiolas setup to highjack the Japanese investor for one more of his loot. How? They've already publicly announced that their six months or "arduous hanging around," all-expense paid junket to Louisiana already cost "them" millions of dollars more to bring back the cargo ship. Pretending "they" are losing money. So why not cough-up all the expenses and let's see how our monies were wasted

More Pure Evil—Months after its balloon-fest arrived the cargo ship has yet to rescue the poor people of Rota. What happened? Slick Vic and his "personal consultant" Robert Toelkes. It seems they're "chartering" the MV *Luta* for Toelkes' private commercial venture shipping equipment and goods to a (casino) investor. How can they get away with that? Get this: the MV *Luta*'s shipping agent, the Rota Terminal & Transfer Inc., is managed by none other than Slick Vic's daughter, Viola Hocog-Atalig, and Slick Vic still has his fingers in RT&T. and does anyone believe Slick and Toelkes are paying an fees for using the Japanese investor's cargo ship MV *Luta*?

Racketeer influenced corrupt organizations act?—Whew! Slick boosted $400,000 from us taxpayers, hijacked the Japanese investor's $3.5M and boat, is skimming bucks in private (casino) scheme with his consultant, feeds his own Rota companies, sits as a lieutenant governor go-to-guy and appears god-like to Rotanese—all by hacking taxpayers' monies. And what about the other play-the-game conspirators, the Rota delegates Glen Maratita, Teresita Santos, and Steve Mesngon, will they escape justice? They're still playing dodgeball and hoping upon hope the coming election will absolve them all of their crimes. Me? RICO to the bunch of them.

What's the common thread to all this? Unbated corruption and malfeasance committed by arrogant elected and appointed officials. Throw the book at them because voting doesn't work. And just imagine the repercussions of a "local boy" slapping a lawsuit on the local corrupt government. For all lawfully abiding citizens it's about time. Perhaps and soon younger and more honest community members will be doing the same.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa

Pacific Community launches 'Tails' app for fisheries data collection

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—A new fisheries application developed by the Pacific Community (SPC) has been launched at the 10th annual Tuna Data Workshop in Noumea this week.

Tails is an innovative mobile or tablet application designed for use by small-scale fishers to collect "catch" information, recording the quantity of fish they catch and the different species.

This new application allows fisheries officers to collect data when they are out in-the-field, even when they don't have access to internet. Once they are connected to the Internet, data is then automatically synced, uploading catch information to national datasets through integration with the 'Tufman 2' data management system, also developed by SPC.

Tails is currently being trialled in Tuvalu and Nauru for future rollout across the Pacific Islands region.

SPC's Principal Fisheries Scientist for Data Management, Peter Williams, said the use of mobile technology has already enabled key improvements in data quality and the use of fisheries data to inform management decisions by governments across the region.

"Over the past 10 years since the first Tuna Data Workshop, we have seen so much change in the technology we use to assist Pacific Community members with managing their tuna data. This year we are excited to be launching our new app 'Tails', as well as the ongoing enhancements and add-ons to 'TUFMAN 2' our tuna data management system," Mr Williams said.

Throughout the week, participants at the workshop have learned about the new developments in SPC's tuna data management software and how to use them.

The newly-developed systems improve data quality and data sharing between Pacific Island countries and territories, with these being key themes of workshop discussions.

There is also greater integration between SPC and Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) systems, to improve user experience for SPC's members.

The first Tuna Data Workshop was held in October 2006, when SPC member countries were first required to compile comprehensive scientific data on their tuna fleets and formally submit these data to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on an annual basis.

SPC hosts this workshop annually each April to coincide with the deadline for the provision of scientific data to the WCPFC.

During the workshop, SPC staff along with colleagues from FFA and WCPFC, assist Pacific Islands' fisheries officials to prepare their data in order to comply with WCPFC reporting obligations. This year SPC also welcomes WCPFC members Philippines and Vietnam to TDW.

The data provided to the WCPFC are also essential to the regional stock assessments conducted by SPC, which are fundamental to the conservation and management of the tuna resource in the western and central Pacific Ocean. ***(PR)***

58 graduate from Palau Community College

Palau Community College held its 53rd Commencement Exercises last Friday, May 13.

A total of 58 graduates received degrees in the following programs: agricultural science, criminal justice, early childhood education, elementary education, special education, environmental/marine science, liberal arts, nursing career ladder, STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) disciplines, business accounting, business administration, information technology, office administration, tourism & hospitality: food & beverages, tourism & hospitality: hotel operations, tourism & hospitality: tour services, automotive mechanics technology, electrical technology, general electronics technology, and small engine & outboard marine technology.

PCC's San Diego State University graduates. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

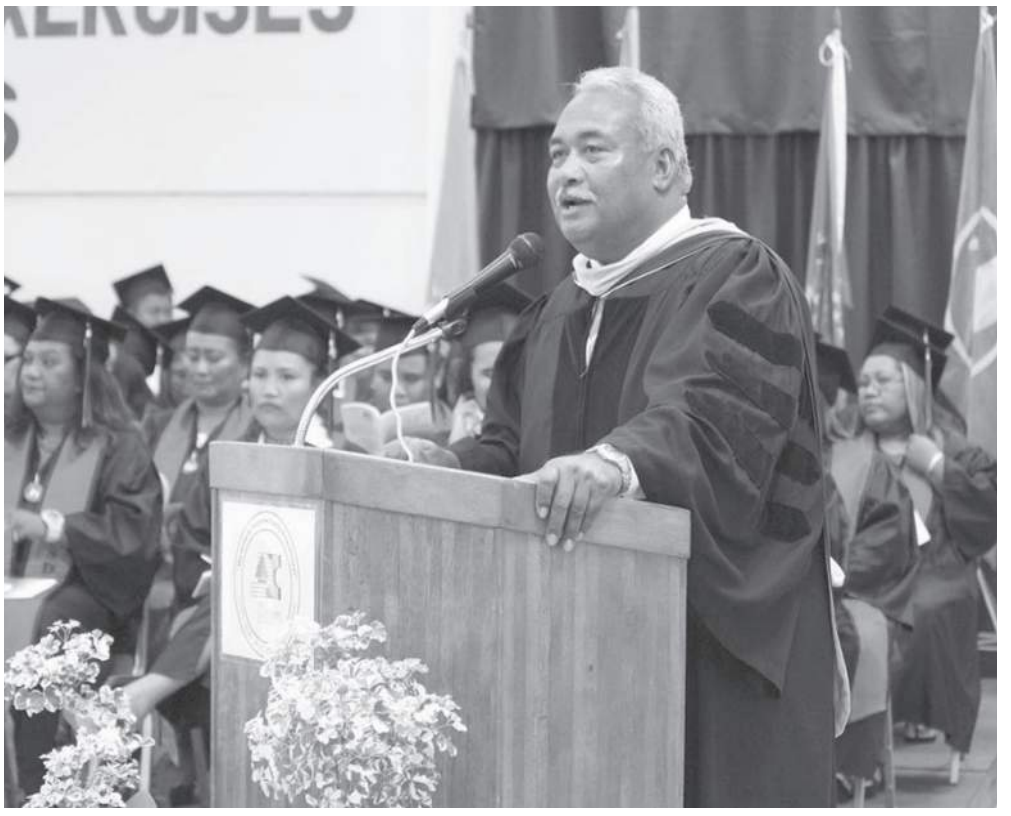
A total of 15 graduates were recognized for completing the PCC Adult High School Program. Also commemorated were the 21 graduates who completed the San Diego State University Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and the 14 graduates who completed the Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling Program.

Commencement officiators included Ibedul Yutaka M. Gibbons, Reklai Raphael B. Ngirmang, Honorable Minister of Education Sinton Soalablai (present on behalf of Republic of Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.), Pastor John Zimmer, SDSU Institute Collaborative for Distance Learning and Center for Pacific Studies Project Coordinator & Instructional Designer Dr. Theresa Lally, PCC Board of Trustees Chairperson Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, Honorable Minister of State Billy G. Kuartei (also the Vice Chairman of the PCC Board of Trustees), PCC Board of Trustees Member Jemmy Blelai, PCC Student Trustee Rdiall L. Tellei, PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, PCC Dean of Continuing Education William O. Wally, and PCC Dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui.

The ceremony opened with the processional song and a rendition of the Palau National Anthem by the PCC Music Club. Pastor Zimmer followed with the invocation. PCC President Dr. Tellei gave the welcoming remarks that recognized honored guests including high officials from the Ninth Olbiil Era Kelulau and the Palau Diplomatic Corps.

PCC Student Trustee Rdiall L. Tellei followed with an introduction of the commencement speaker, Dr. Gregory J. Dever. Dr. Dever is a well-respected member of the Pacific medical society. He is the current Director of the Palau Area Health Education Center and also serves as the Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) Regional Human Resources for Health. Over the years, Dr. Dever has written numerous articles regarding the health and the healthcare system of the Pacific region. Highlights of his impressive medical career include being a Pediatrician & Clinical Faculty at John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii in Manoa and serving as Director of Clinical Services for the Belau National Hospital.

Palau Community College is an accessible public educational institution helping to meet the technical, academic, cultural, social, and economic needs of students and communities by promoting learning opportunities and developing personal excellence.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcoming remarks by Palau Community College president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei during the college's 53rd Commencement Exercises held last Friday.

Valedictorian Nelson Masang Jr. delivers his valedictory speech. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In his speech, Dr. Dever congratulated the graduates on completing their respective degree programs. He highlighted the importance of perseverance, the act of doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. He quoted Galatians 6:9 which reads, "Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up." To the graduates, he advised that they continue to persevere regardless of the difficulties. Dr. Dever also recognized the graduates' tremendous support system, which included family members, friends, employers, and academic counselors.

Mr. Nelson Masang, Jr., a graduate of the PCC Liberal Arts Program, was the Valedictorian of the Palau Community College Class of 2016. In his address, Mr. Masang commended his fellow graduates on completing this leg of their learning journey. Palau Community College had not been Mr. Masang's first choice in a post-secondary learning institution. He had been under the impression that higher learning was accomplished outside of Palau. His experiences at PCC taught him that learning can be done anywhere. Being a student at Palau Community College was an opportunity for him to learn more about his home. To his fellow graduates, Mr. Masang encouraged that they all try to do great things and become proud representatives of their islands.

The Micronesian Occupational College/Palau Community College Alumni Association also presented awards to the graduates for best grade point average (GPA) and best effort. The Best GPA Award was presented to Noelani Ngiramengior (Automotive Mechanics Technology Program), Connor Yuri (Criminal Justice Program), Sheila J. Pedro (Nursing Career Ladder), Lashawnda E. Olikong (Office Administration Program), and Evan Fritz (Environmental/Marine Science Program). The Best Effort Award was presented to Spencer Remoket (Automotive Mechanics Technology Program), Koliano Yaiungeitiw (Electrical Technology Program), Connor Yuri (Criminal Justice Program), John Ochalibul (Agricultural Science Program), Allyn K. Kikuharu (Nursing Career Ladder), Pracy Masubed (Office Administration Program), Essie Cailao (Early Childhood Education Program), and Evan Fritz (Environmental/Marine Science Program).

The following seven graduates were members of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society-Beta Zeta Omicron Chapter: Nelson Masang Jr., Masami N. Andreas, Allyne K. Kikuharu, Sheila J. Pedro, Six N. Ridep, Velda F. Lechol, and Judah T. Sibetang. Dr. Theresa Lally recognized the graduates of the Bachelor's Degree Program on behalf of San Diego State University. The commencement exercises ended with the recognition of the students and closing remarks from PCC Board of Trustees Chairperson Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl. The recessional march of the graduates followed the benediction from Pastor Zimmer.

To learn more about the programs of Palau Community College, please contact PCC Dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui at (680) 488-2470/2471 or email Dean Ramarui at rramarui@palau.edu. ***(PR)***

Business

Detroit's automakers, sensing a threat, embrace mobility

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—For Detroit, the days of simply making cars are over.

Automakers are facing multiple threats to their business from nimble tech firms like Apple and Uber. In response, carmakers are reinventing themselves as "mobility" companies that can accommodate all the different ways people get around.

Already this year, General Motors Co. has announced a long-term alliance with ride-hailing company Lyft and started a car-sharing service called Maven. Ford created a technology-focused division based in Silicon Valley that will invest in promising transportation startups. It also launched FordPass, a smartphone app that helps users find parking or share their cars. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles is partnering with Google to test self-driving software in 100 of its minivans.

In congested and expensive cities, people are increasingly content to share cars or summon rides using their smartphones. In five years, 35 million people globally will be using car-sharing services, up from 5.8 million now, according to Boston Consulting Group. That means 550,000 fewer cars sold each year. Within another few decades, fleets of self-driving taxis could replace the need for personal car ownership altogether. Automakers that don't adapt risk being supplanted by high-tech competitors.

"We're investing in future-proofing," says Elena Ford, who led the development of FordPass and is the great-great-granddaughter of Ford's founder.

There are dangers. Making vehicles is complicated and expensive, and car companies have stumbled when they've taken on new businesses. GM bought software maker Electronic Data Systems Inc. in 1984 but sold it 12 years later. Ford owned Hertz rental cars but sold it a decade ago. Chrysler owned airplane-maker Gulfstream in the mid-1980s. In each case, the companies sold those businesses to refocus on car-making.

There's also the open question of whether drivers want automakers to do more than make cars. Ford CEO Mark Fields is confident they do.

"It goes back to Henry Ford and one of his favorite quotes: 'If I asked people what they wanted, they'd say they wanted a faster horse,'" Fields told The Associated Press. "We want to transform, fundamentally, the relationship between an automaker and a customer."

Feds to vote on probable cause of deadly Amtrak derailment

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board is scheduled to meet to detail the probable cause of last year's deadly Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia, a day after a U.S. official briefed on the investigation revealed that the engineer was distracted by radio transmissions.

The NTSB will meet on Tuesday in Washington to vote on the probable cause of the May 12, 2015 crash that killed eight people.

Engineer Brandon Bostian told investigators after the derailment that he remembered radio traffic that night from a commuter train operator who said a rock had shattered his windshield. The official did not say whether those were the transmissions that distracted Bostian, but the engineer did not speak about any other radio chatter when he was interviewed by federal investigators, according to material released previously by the NTSB.

The official was not authorized to comment publicly because of the ongoing probe and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

NTSB spokesman Peter Knudsen said the agency would not comment ahead of Tuesday's hearing.

Bostian's attorney did not immediately return an email sent after business hours on Monday. An Amtrak spokesman said the agency will have a comment after the hearing.

The official briefed on the report's findings on Monday said that investigators also believe there were some issues with the train's emergency windows and several people were killed because they were ejected through them.

The investigation found that police transported many of the injured people to the hospital, instead of waiting for ambulances, the official said. The NTSB is expected to recommend that engineers be retrained about distractions and also recommend that the city wait for ambulances to take injured people to the hospital at mass-casualty incidents.

Just 23 of the 185 hospitalized in the crash were taken in an ambulance, according to NTSB data. The rest were taken by other means, such as city buses, police cars or vans. The NTSB found that just three of the 43 seriously injured passengers had an ambulance transport chart.

Tax measure could cause financial jolt to California smokers

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A campaign to raise California's cigarette tax by $2 a pack said Monday it has collected enough signatures to qualify the proposal for the Nov. 8 ballot and raise the prospect of a pocketbook jolt for smokers in the nation's most populous state.

Backers hope the higher cost of cigarettes would discourage young people from smoking while raising money for anti-smoking campaigns and research on tobacco-related illnesses.

The average cost of a pack of cigarettes in California is now about $5.50. The $2-a-pack increase would bump that to about $7.50—an increase of about $750 a year for people who smoke a pack a day—if cigarette makers pass along the full amount to consumers.

"This is going to make smokers pay their fair share" of health costs, said Tom Steyer, a former hedge fund manager who has contributed $1 million to the ballot campaign.

Steyer said his mother had a three-pack-a-day habit and died of lung cancer 14 years ago.

"I think everybody in California has a family member, a close friend, whose lives have been tragically affected by tobacco," he said.

Backers of the measure delivered their first box of petition signatures to the San Diego County registrar of voters. They said a million signatures have been gathered and will be delivered to counties throughout the state.

A total of 585,407 signatures of registered voters must be verified for the measure to appear on the November ballot.

The increase would make California's tax the ninth-highest in the nation, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an advocacy group. New York has the nation's highest state tax at $4.35 a pack, and Missouri is lowest at 17 cents.

Nation

Trump's questioning of the value of data worries GOP

ATLANTA (AP)—Donald Trump says he plans to win the White House largely on the strength of his personality, not by leaning heavily on complex voter data operations that have become a behind-the-scenes staple in modern presidential campaigns.

AP

In this May 10, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at Trump Tower in New York.

Shortly after Trump explained his approach in an Associated Press interview—data is "overrated," he said—one of the presumptive Republican nominee's top advisers tried to clarify the remarks. Rick Wiley told AP the Trump campaign will indeed tap the Republican Party's massive cache of voter information.

The national Republican Party has spent massive sums of money to develop the database since President Barack Obama's election set a new standard for using data in national campaigns, from deciding where to send a candidate and how to spend advertising dollars to making sure supporters cast a ballot.

The back-and-forth in the Trump camp leaves Republicans and Democrats alike wondering just how committed the candidate actually is to what has become accepted wisdom among political professionals. Some Republicans worry that Trump risks ceding potential advantages to likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton if he's not willing to invest the money required to keep updating the data, and then use it effectively.

8-justice Supreme Court dodges decision on birth control

WASHINGTON (AP)—A short-handed Supreme Court dodged but kept alive a legal challenge Monday from faith-based groups over the Obama administration's rules for cost-free access to birth control. It was the latest sign of justices struggling to find a majority for cases taken up before Justice Antonin Scalia's death.

The unsigned, unanimous opinion paved a way out of a politically thorny dispute for the eight-member court, which has split twice in 4-4 ties since the conservative jurist's death in February. Yet it hardly settled the matter, even if President Barack Obama said the "practical effect is right now that women will still continue to be able to get contraception."

Deciding nothing but perhaps buying time, the justices asked lower courts to take another look at the issue in search of a compromise. The case concerns the administration's arrangement for sparing faith-based groups from paying the birth control costs of women covered under their health plans.

"The court expresses no view on the merits of the cases," the justices wrote, ending a major confrontation over Obama's health care law with a whimper. The matter almost certainly will not return to the Supreme Court before the 2016 presidential election, and perhaps not until a new justice is confirmed to take Scalia's seat, if at all.

The outcome suggested the court lacked a majority, underscoring the effect of Scalia's absence. And it pointed to the prospect of other cases ending in a tie among the 31 that remain unresolved.

For now, the government will be able to continue ensuring that women covered by faith-based groups' health plans have access to cost-free contraceptives.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bus that crashed, killing 8, had seatbelts only in first row

DALLAS (AP)—Officials investigating a charter bus crash that killed eight people and injured 44 on a rain-slicked South Texas highway said Monday that the vehicle had seat belts only in the first row. Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Johnny Hernandez said the remaining rows of seats had no lap belts. He said the bus was a 1998 model. The OGA Charters bus crashed Saturday north of Laredo in rainy conditions. It was en route to a casino in Eagle Pass, about 125 miles northwest of Laredo. No other vehicles were involved. The 29-year-old bus driver, Porfirio Aguirre Vasquez of Pharr, Texas, was injured in the crash, but later released from a hospital, Hernandez said. Investigators hope to interview the driver and other survivors of the crash this week, said National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway.

Baby found safe after car with her inside stolen in Detroit

DETROIT (AP)—Police say a 3-month-old girl has been found safe after her father's car, with her inside, was stolen from outside a Detroit liquor store. Police say the father told investigators he left the car running with Dakota Grimes sleeping in the back around 1 a.m. Monday while he ran into the store on the city's east side. He returned to discover the white 2006 Chevrolet Impala—and his daughter—missing. Shortly after an Amber Alert was broadcast, the child was found on the porch of a nearby home, still strapped in her car seat. She was taken to a hospital as a precaution. Police Chief James Craig says officers are looking for three suspects in the theft of the car, which was recovered Monday afternoon in nearby Harper Woods.

Asia

Afghanistan backs Beijing stance on South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—China on Monday said landlocked Afghanistan has expressed support for Beijing's stance on the South China Sea dispute, the latest country from outside the region to line up behind China's calls for bilateral talks on the issue.

The Foreign Ministry said Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah made the statement in a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing that also touched on security cooperation along their border in China's volatile western region of Xinjiang.

"Our Afghan counterparts expressed their gratitude for China's long-term support over the years, and also said they support China's position on the South China Sea issue and support China's efforts to resolve the South China Sea issue through bilateral channels and through peaceful means such as negotiation and consultation," the deputy director general of the ministry's department of Asian Affairs, Hou Yanqi, told reporters following the talks.

Hou said Li also expressed China's willingness to help with Afghanistan's national reconciliation process, provide assistance for projects including the construction of low-cost housing and boost imports of Afghan agricultural projects.

China has been seeking support from friendly nations for its bilateral approach to settling South China Sea territorial disputes, largely to counter efforts by the U.S., Philippines and others to challenge China's claim to virtually the entire sea and creation of new islands out of coral reefs. Russia has so far been the most prominent nation to publicly endorse China's position.

PH president-elect to offer Cabinet posts to rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Presumptive Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte said Monday he will reimpose the death penalty, offer Cabinet posts to communist rebels, and move to amend the constitution to give more power to the provinces, in some of his first policy pronouncements since winning last week's election based on an unofficial count.

In his first nationally televised news conference since the May 9 vote, Duterte also said he will launch a major military offensive to destroy Abu Sayyaf extremists on southern Jolo Island.

The announcements, a sharp departure from current government policy, reflect his brash campaign pledge to end crime and corruption in the impoverished nation in three to six months. Police officials have said the plan is undoable, and that crime remains prevalent in Davao city, where Duterte has served as mayor for more than 22 years.

The military has been fighting a decades-long Marxist insurgency in the countryside.

Duterte said he would likely offer the Cabinet posts of environment and natural resources, agrarian reform, social welfare, and labor to the communist rebels.

"They are the most vigilant group in the Philippines about labor so they would get it," Duterte said.

The move would likely be strongly opposed by big business and industry.

Duterte said he would ask Congress to reimpose the death penalty, which has been suspended since 2006 in the face of staunch opposition from the dominant Roman Catholic church. Capital punishment by hanging, he said, should be imposed for heinous crimes, and criminals convicted of killing along with robbery and rape should be meted "double the hanging."

"After the first hanging, there will be another ceremony for the second time until the head is completely severed from the body," he said.

Commission on Human Rights Chairman Chito Gascon said his agency opposes the death penalty and would block any attempt to reimpose it, adding that the constitution forbids cruel and degrading punishments like hanging.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong quake shakes eastern Japan; no tsunami danger

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake has shaken Tokyo and other cities in eastern Japan, but officials say there is no danger of a tsunami. The Meteorological Agency said the earthquake had an initial magnitude of 5.6 and hit Monday evening in southern Ibaraki prefecture, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Tokyo. The agency said the earthquake was located about 40 kilometers (24 miles) underground, and there was no danger of a tsunami. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The earthquake also shook Tsukuba, where science and technology ministers from the Group of Seven nations are meeting. The quake came a month after two strong earthquakes struck Kumamoto prefecture in southern Japan, leaving dozens of people dead and destroying many houses.

18 killed as overcrowded boat sinks in eastern India

KOLKATA, India (AP)—Rescuers say they've recovered 18 bodies from a river in eastern India's West Bengal state where an overcrowded boat sank following a village fair over the weekend. District Magistrate Saumitra Mohan says the vessel overturned Saturday night as the villagers were returning to their homes across the river despite the crew's warning that the boat was overcrowded. Mohan said the rescue work was completed Monday, with dozens of people rescued and the 18 bodies recovered. He said the boat became unstable and sank at a depth of 28 meters (70 feet) amid a strong current.

Accidents are common in India as many ferries are poorly built and often overcrowded, with little regard for safety regulations.

Hong Kong under tight security for Chinese official's visit

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong authorities have rolled out a massive security operation as they brace for protests during a top Beijing official's visit to the semiautonomous Chinese city. Thousands of police officers were deployed Tuesday as Zhang Dejiang began a three-day trip to Hong Kong. Zhang is the chairman of the National People's Congress, China's parliament. He is the highest-ranking Communist Party official to come to Hong Kong since then-President Hu Jintao paid a visit in 2012. Zhang arrived at Hong Kong's airport at midday, giving a short speech before departing by car. Hong Kong has seen increasing discontent with Beijing's tightening grip on the former British colony, including pro-democracy street protests that gripped the city in late 2014.

World

US, other powers want to arm Libyan government

VIENNA (AP)—In a move fraught with risk, the United States and other world powers said Monday they would supply Libya's internationally recognized government with weapons to counter the Islamic State and other militant groups gaining footholds in the chaos-wracked country's lawless regions.

Aiming at once to shore up the fragile government, and prevent Islamic State fighters and rival militias from further gains, the U.S., the four other permanent U.N. Security Council members and more than 15 other nations said they would approve exemptions to a United Nations arms embargo to allow military sales and aid to Libya's so-called "Government of National Accord."

In a joint communique, the nations said that while the broader embargo will remain in place, they are "ready to respond to the Libyan government's requests for training and equipping" government forces.

"We will fully support these efforts while continuing to reinforce the UN arms embargo," the communique said.

With support from all five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the plan is unlikely to face significant opposition from any quarter.

The communique was issued at the end of the talks that gathered U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and top officials from more than 20 other nations to discuss ways to strengthen Libya's fledgling government. The aim is to give the internationally recognized administration more muscle in fighting Islamic State radicals and end its rivalry with a group to the east claiming legitimacy.

The step will boost the government's efforts to consolidate power and regain control over Libyan state institutions like the central bank and national oil company. However, it also comes with risks, not least of which is that the arms may be captured or otherwise taken by the Islamic State or other groups.

Kerry called the plan "a delicate balance."

"But we are all of us here today supportive of the fact that if you have a legitimate government and that legitimate government is fighting terrorism, that legitimate government should not be victimized by (the embargo)," he told reporters.

The 'untouchables' of Yemen caught in crossfire of war

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—They are Yemen's untouchables.

They call themselves the "Muhammasheen," or "the Marginalized," a dark-skinned ethnic group that for centuries has been consigned to the bottom of Yemen's social scale, faced with discrimination and racism, shunned by others. They live in shantytowns on the outskirts of cities, are often refused schooling and work menial jobs like shoe-shining or street cleaning or turn to begging. Other Yemenis have traditionally called them the "Akhdam," or "servants."

In a country where belonging to a tribe is vital to guaranteeing protection, status and livelihood, their community—which some estimates say numbers nearly 3 million people—is without a tribe and ignored by the government.

As a result, they have been hit particularly hard in Yemen's civil war that is pitting the government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, against Shiite rebels known as Houthis and forces loyal to Yemen's ousted president.

Their neighborhoods have been pounded both by coalition airstrikes and Houthi shelling, shattering their makeshift homes cobbled together from sheets of metal, cardboard and blankets.

Many have been thrown into a state of constant displacement, with no one to take them in. Some tell of fleeing from strikes by one side, only to be hit again by another of the many factions and combatants in the conflict. Yemeni groups distributing humanitarian aid ignore them, they say.

"We are naked. We have nothing," Houssna Mohammed said, choking back tears as she stood at the charred remains of her shack in a slum of the Marginalized in the western city of Taiz. She said her home was burned down in March when a mortar hit her neighbor and the fire was blown to her shack.

UN envoy blasts EU's 'lack of vision' on migration

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A U.N. envoy for human rights on Monday said the European Union's response to the refugee crisis showed a "lack of vision" and that the bloc's deal with Turkey was legally questionable.

The envoy, Francois Crepeau, said the March agreement between the EU and Turkey to send back migrants reaching Europe required "much stronger legal instruments to ensure legal accountability."

"The legal nature of the document is uncertain," Crepeau told reporters in Athens after a five-day visit to Greece that included trips to detention sites and migrant camps.

He added that Greek and European courts would need to determine whether the agreement has any "legal value."

The EU didn't immediately comment on Crepeau's remarks.

The aim of the deal between the EU and Turkey is to stop the flow of hundreds of thousands of people from Turkey to nearby Greek islands, which had become by far the most popular route for refugees and migrants into Europe.

Under the agreement, those arriving on Greek islands on or after March 20 face detention and deportation back to Turkey unless they are granted asylum in often reluctant EU countries. The process has strained financially stricken Greece where about a quarter of the workforce is unemployed.

A total of about 50,000 people are stranded in Greece since European countries, including Austria and Balkan states, closed their borders to migrants earlier this year.

Crepeau expressed concern that children were among those detained in Greece, as part of the EU-Turkey agreement, and in police cells on mainland Greece because of gaps in welfare coverage.

Focus

Nostalgia for Mao 50 years after China's Cultural Revolution

LUOYANG, China (AP)—Fifty years after Mao Zedong unleashed the decade-long Cultural Revolution to reassert his authority and revive his radical communist agenda, the spirit of modern China's founder still exerts a powerful pull.

Millions of people were persecuted, publicly humiliated, beaten or killed during the upheaval, as zealous factionalism metastasized countrywide, tearing apart Chinese society at a most basic level.

Student groups tortured their own teachers, and children were made to watch mobs beat their own parents condemned as counter-revolutionaries. Gangs engaging in "armed struggle" killed at least a half million people while countless more committed suicide, unable to cope with relentless persecution.

It was only in 1981—five years after Mao's death—that China's government officially pronounced the Cultural Revolution "a catastrophe."

But in the ancient city of Luoyang, the old, the poor and the marginalized gather daily in the main public square to profess nostalgia for the political movement, downplaying that period's violent excesses. In the marble halls of power in Beijing, Cultural Revolution-era song-and-dance performances are being revived. China's liberals see ominous signs of a society tugged backward by ideological currents.

"Either it's because people have forgotten the Cultural Revolution or are increasingly dissatisfied with social conditions, but since the mid-1990s these kinds of ideas have been gaining currency," said Xu Youyu, a former Chinese Academy of Social Sciences researcher.

Maoists long for China to reverse its path toward market capitalism and return to Mao's radical vision of a classless society steered by a powerful and ideologically pure leader. They have largely embraced President Xi Jinping as one of their own, though he has never endorsed their views outright, and the nuances of his personal ideology—especially on economic matters—remain a cipher. Many see encouraging echoes of Mao's political style in Xi's crusade against corrupt party bureaucrats, and in his staunchly populist rhetoric, nationalistic bent and repeated demands for ideological conformity.

But the surge in Maoist sentiment and distrust of the status quo points to the complex risks facing Chinese leaders. The legitimacy of the Communist Party is staked upon both Mao's legacy and a tacit promise of bettering people's lives. Those two pillars may prove difficult to maintain as China navigates a painful economic transition that threatens to shed countless miners and factory workers and widen social inequality.

While China went through similar reforms a decade ago, the economy was growing much faster at the time and citizens lacked organizational tools such as the Internet and social media platforms.

Grassroots Maoism has been "blossoming in every corner" in the past few years as social media has taken off, said Han Deqiang, a prominent Maoist lecturer and professor at Beihang University in Beijing. "Many consider General Secretary Xi Jinping a leftist, so we are certainly rising, even if we cannot vote or demonstrate under the Chinese system," Han said.

Vendors wait for customers at a curio market near a display of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong alongside images of emperors and deities in Beijing, China, Monday, May 16, 2016. AP

RETHINKING 'CATASTROPHE'

The Cultural Revolution is considered to have begun May 16, 1966, when the Communist Party's Politburo purged a number of leading officials. Over the following decade, Mao deposed two heirs apparent, his "Little Red Book" of sayings was elevated to the level of holy scripture, and millions were imprisoned, sent to labor camps or exiled from the cities. Xi himself spent years living in a cave dwelling and laboring in the fields of his father's native province of Sha'anxi.

The government now calls the decade-long revolution "a catastrophe." Yet in the central province of Henan, that determination rings hollow in Luoyang, a 3,000-year-old city long familiar with the ancient axioms of governance.

A capital for nine dynasties, Luoyang was built by the Duke of Zhou, a sage praised by Confucius for conceiving the quintessential Chinese idea that heaven granted emperors the right to rule only if they performed virtuously and ably. If not, they risked being deposed.

Today, Luoyang seethes.

Downtown, an enormous statue of Mao looms over the red-brick No. 1 Tractor Factory, one of many local icons of state-owned industry that was either privatized or shuttered by decree in the 1990s as China prepared to join the World Trade Organization. In the outskirts, struggling steel plants and glassmaking firms line roads winding along hard-scrabble hills.

Nearly every day in Luoyang's Zhouwangcheng Plaza, retired or unemployed workers sing odes to Mao under a billowing Communist Party flag. Zhao Shunli, a retired veteran who collects discarded food outside restaurants to survive, performs red song-and-dance routines in a uniform decked with Mao pins.

People swarm around a clothesline and squint at dozens of pinned essays condemning the past 30 years of liberalization or positively reappraising the Cultural Revolution.

When asked, many reject historical accounts of widespread political chaos during the period, or absolve Mao of responsibility, saying he did not explicitly order violent abuse.

Even Xi, whose administration is now trying to slim down state-owned sectors, does not escape criticism.

"Xi speaks of it so it must be Chinese theory," read one essay critiquing current policy. "But no. Supply-side economics is not Chinese, it's actually American poison."

Wang Chunwen, a 38-year-old who has washed dishes for 10,000 yuan ($1,500) a year after losing his teaching job, stopped reading one of the printouts to recount how he plunged into the world of Maoist blogs after buying his first smartphone two years ago.

"China has transformed beyond recognition," he said. "When Mao started the Cultural Revolution, he was ordering surgery on a sick person. Now, China is in the terminal stage of cancer."

It was here in the plaza that Xu Xiaobin met a group of Maoist retirees who changed his thinking five years ago. That was before he was laid off from his 3,000 yuan ($460)-a-month machining job and condemned to a life of off-and-on construction work that has slowed to a trickle as the economy sputters.

"Even the word 'layoff" didn't exist" in Mao's time, Xu said, standing outside the state-owned gear factory that used to support his family of four. "You look on the Internet and there are people showing off their wealth. Then there are people like me, working under the sun in 40-degree (Celsius, 104-degree Fahrenheit) heat."

Born in 1974, Xu scarcely experienced China under Mao, whose death in 1976 started China's journey toward liberalization. But during childhood, Xu saw pictures of his laborer father, and was told he was respected, not denigrated.

PROTESTS AND CRACKDOWNS

Many formerly in the state sector have taken their grievances to Luoyang's streets. Thousands of decommissioned army veterans have been petitioning for years for retirement benefits, which have led to confrontations with police, who break up even private meetings in restaurants, said veteran Qin Shuiyan.

Perhaps no one has drawn Luoyang authorities' ire more than Wang Xianfeng, a 57-year-old retiree who in recent years has pulled together Maoist rallies with thousands of people, prompting multiple crackdowns.

She discusses Maoist thought semi-weekly in a rented home next to the plaza and organizes followers who distribute thousands of pamphlets. Police once tore down the door and seized her group's public address system, Wang says.

Luoyang police declined a request for a telephone interview and did not respond to questions submitted by fax.

Wang was sentenced to two years in a labor camp in 2010, but her ardor for the ruling party and its leader has hardly dimmed. In her eyes, a new Cultural Revolution has already arrived under Xi.

"He wants to inspect these people who've enjoyed their lifestyle for so long," she said. "It's a class struggle, so of course they're going to resist him, just like during the Cultural Revolution, when landlords didn't want to give up their position.

"If he needs us, we're ready to fight for him."

Maoism nationwide remains loosely organized, however. The community is bound mostly online by blogs and forums. Public demonstrations of even modest size are quickly shut down and unauthorized monuments to Mao, like giant statues, are razed in the heartland regions where Maoism burns hottest.

In 2012, the government launched a crackdown on public displays of "red culture" like singing and posters. It also briefly shut down Utopia, a popular Maoist news site and messaging board. Analysts say it was part of an internal party struggle that brought down Bo Xilai, party secretary of the southwestern Chongqing metropolis, who allied Maoism ideology and culture with economic policies that boosted state enterprise.

Xi, however, has sent signals that he in fact supports many elements of Bo's Chongqing model. He made a prominent visit to Chongqing to observe Bo's handiwork a year before his downfall, and many elements of China's economic plan laid out in 2013 bears that model's hallmarks, analysts say.

WHITE-COLLAR SUPPORT

The breadth of neo-Maoists—and their support for Xi—was recently on display in the port city of Tianjin, at a funeral for Ai Yuejin, a Maoist professor at Nankai University and popular online lecturer.

Ai's fiery talks praising Mao's legacy drew followers from as far as Shanxi and Fujian provinces. Hundreds of fans, nearly all wearing Mao pins and some crying Ai's name in grief, circled a casket draped in a Communist Party flag, where the professor lay in repose with a People's Liberation Army peaked hat on his head.

In the courtyard, followers read poems or gathered around Liu Yiran, a celebrated playwright and director of Maoist-themed television shows. Hou Zhongyi scanned the crowd to explain that not only laborers but white-collar Chinese were pinning their hopes on a leader they wished would outright assume Mao's mantle.

"We haven't had anybody decent until Xi," said Hou, who worked in publishing in Beijing.

Whether Xi gives a nod to the Maoists as the Cultural Revolution's anniversary approaches this month could reflect his political standing, analysts say.

If he felt politically confident, Xi could seek to allow commemorations of the movement "in a more positive light" compared to the Communist Party mainstream, which has historically preferred to suppress discussion of the period altogether, said Bo Zhiyue, a watcher of elite Chinese politics at Victoria University in New Zealand.

Divisions are already beginning to show. In March, a commentary in the state-run Global Times tabloid warned against overly discussing the Cultural Revolution. Yet a group staged a concert at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing featuring lavish productions praising Mao and Xi this month, reportedly angering some party elders who wondered how the performance gained approval.

Song Yongyi, a Cultural Revolution historian at California State University in Los Angeles, said the Communist Party—and Chinese society itself—will be divided as long as the party does not allow a full and open reckoning of modern China's darkest period.

"As long as Mao's picture is hanging on Tiananmen, you cannot say the Cultural Revolution has completely ended," Song said.

Good Housekeeping

DIGGIN' IN: A couple's passion for gardening spans more than 40 years

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS

Gardening is an addiction—the more you fail and succeed, the more passionate you become about plants and the wildlife that comes with them.

First, you have one camellia, and then you have two or three.

First, you have one birdhouse, and then you have several. Birdfeeders come next.

That is how it's been at the Menke house in southeastern Virginia, where Mathilde's passion for the outdoors has turned her 43-year-old yard into a botanical paradise.

"Garden work never ends," says Mathilde.

"There is always something that needs to be done."

All those "something" chores add up to year-round beauty.

In spring, Virginia bluebells, tulips and peonies bloom and beehives wake up. An azalea garden flowers with red, white, pink and orange blossoms. A 40-year-old lilac bush is still there, going strong in spite of the heat and humidity that often plagues vigor.

In summer, it's the 100 or more Eastern black swallowtail eggs Mathilde and husband Hans save before birds get them, and later release as beautiful butterflies. Lavender, salvias and milkweeds are also there for the benefit of other butterfly species.

In fall, asters, goldenrod and zinnias continue the colorful show and wildlife benefits.

In winter, hollies, camellias and hellebores brighten the cold days.

The Menke backyard is a native plant haven and certified wildlife habitat filled with more than 200 plants. TNS

TNS

Virginia bluebells herald the arrival of spring in the Menke garden.

TNS

Mathilde and Hans Menke care for a 43-year-old garden with more than 200 plants.

"It's not easy to pick three favorite plants for each season from the nearly 200 plants I care for in our backyard habitat," says Mathilde, when asked to name them.

"All my 'dirt babies' are special and thrill me."

To maintain the garden as a wildlife habitat certified through the National Wildlife Federation, Mathilde planted dozens of common milkweeds, as well as swamp and whorled milkweeds.

"In this case, more is better," says Hans.

"In the past two years, we saved more than 50 monarch eggs, cared for them to make it through caterpillar stage and then released the emerged butterflies.

"We hope for a successful season this year, and will add tagging to our program as a certified Monarch Waystation."

While Mathilde waters, feeds fish in the pond, lays out plans for new plants, removes old growth as needed, Hans helps in other ways. He makes and maintains garden structures, including three copper tubing arbors for roses and purple hyacinth bean. He lays out pathways and borders them with recycled wood planks.

Most importantly, he photographs their garden in all its trials and tribulations, including the trees that were downed and removed after Hurricane Isabel in 2003.

"When we cut the last pine tree that survived, we left about 18 feet standing to provide a place for woodpeckers and hung a bat house on it," he says.

"The pine removal increased the sun exposure, and we were able to add a vegetable garden plot for parsley, strawberries, cucumbers and a variety of herbs to flourish."

Even though both are in their 70s, the couple has not stopped doing what they love doing in their garden. They just do it slowly and methodically.

"We enjoy doing it together and pace our daily tasks so the garden remains a joy and not a chore," says Hans.

"We recognize that even with limitations placed upon us with advancing age and health issues, gardening can be and is part of the therapy to health."

GET CERTIFIED

Learn how to get your garden certified as a wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org and as a Monarch Waystation at www.monarchwatch.org/waystations.

10 MENKE MOMENTS

- More than 20 different kinds of birds feed, nest and visit the garden, according to the Menkes.
- Raccoons occasionally raid the couple's 12 birdfeeders.
- They turn lavender stems into fragrant sachets and bundles to give to friends or stash in drawers; bees love lavender, and deer avoid it.
- Lady Jane and Cynthia tulips come back every year, and multiply for a "glorious mass of early color."
- The mauve flowers of common milkweed come with an added bonus — a strong old rose fragrance, and a "food not on any deer menu."
- Zinnia Zahara start flowering in summer, and really shine in fall. Butterflies and bees adore the low-growing flower, and deer leave them alone.
- Native Virginia bluebells produces pink buds that turn "the most exquisite blue."
- A beekeeper's hive resides in their yard as part of their effort to help vanishing bees.
- They created a pond framed with goldenrod, lavender and daylilies; an adjacent bog that helps biologically filter pond water is home to native plants such as pitcher plants.
- Salvias in all shades of blue, lavender and purple "keep going and going," providing food for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Black and Blue salvia is one of their favorites.

Kathy Van Mullekom is the garden/home columnist for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va. Follow her on Facebook@ Kathy Hogan Van Mullekom, on Twitter @diggindirt and at Pinterest@digginin. Her blog can be read at Diggin@ RoomandYard.com

LIVING SMART: What is Green Pest Control?

By GARRETT KELLY
ANGIE'S LIST

When her young dog died of cancer almost four years ago, Chicago Angie's List member Amy Heineke started looking into green pest control. She never inquired about the pesticides her lawn technician used and wonders if they could have caused her pet's untimely death.

Heineke now makes an effort to pay attention to the chemicals her pets encounter, and her new pest management company, highly rated Chem-Wise Ecological Pest Management of Aurora, Ill., offers an eco-friendly plan that both she and her pets can live with.

According to Missy Henriksen, Vice President of Public Affairs for the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), the most important aspect of green pest control is an integrated pest management approach. The process consists of inspecting the area, identifying the pest problem and then controlling it. The goal is to manage pests with minimal impact on people, property and the environment.

TNS

Only set out the amount of food your pet will eat in a day. Pests may end up munching on the leftovers.

Integrated pest management's main focus is determining why the pests are coming into your home and making changes to keep them out. Henriksen says pests need food, water and shelter to thrive. "You can get rid of the pests once they're inside, but if you don't take care of the food, water and shelter they will return," she says.

Brent Draper, owner of highly rated Greenix Pest Control in Dublin, Ohio, is a proponent of the integrated pest management method, and says a lot has changed in the industry over the years. "The old way was just spray, no matter what's there," he says. "Now we get to the root of the problem."

According to Draper, a leaking faucet, pet food or an unkempt lawn may attract pests to your home. He says the goal is to find out the source of the problem and determine what needs to be done before applying products.

The NPMA offers the GreenPro certification for pest control companies who want to follow a green pest control regiment. GreenPro companies agree to inspect the property first, eliminate pest necessities like food sources, use pesticides in the appropriate manner and get the consent of customer before any traditional pesticide is applied. There are currently 152 GreenPro companies nationwide.

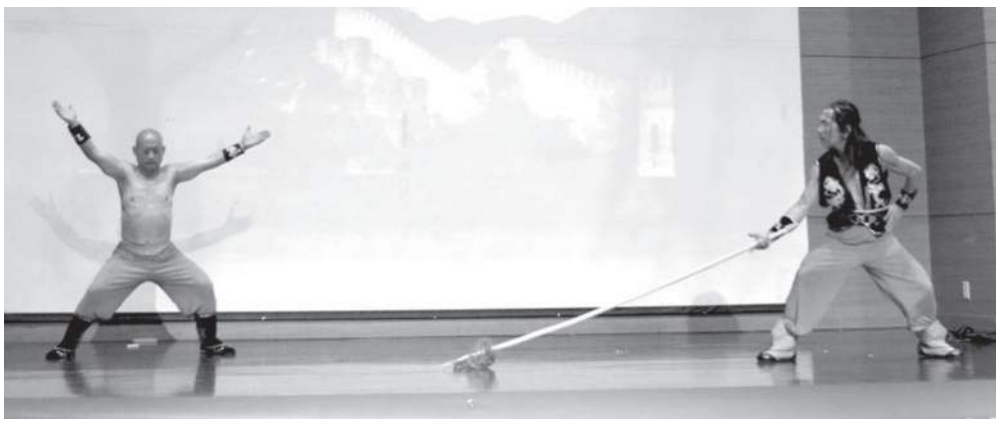
According to Dave Oeters, President of Chem-Wise, green pest control companies can still use pesticides, but they need to be applied in the appropriate manner. "The use of pesticides isn't the problem," he says. "It's in the misuse of them when the issues arise."

Heineke says she expected to pay more for green pest control. "Typically you'd think it isn't going to work as well and it's going to be more expensive," she says.

But Heineke found the opposite to be true. She now pays $75 for quarterly treatment instead of the $100 she paid to the old provider, and she feels the green methods are working better.

Life & Style

Chinese performers showcase talent, culture on Saipan



PHOTOS BY FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Two dancers perform a type of Chinese martial arts utilizing ropes as their weapon which produces a loud sound when it touches each other.

Chinese ladies perform a fan dance.

Another cultural dance from a different region in China.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special cultural show was put on stage by performers from the Pu Tian Tong Le art group at the Saipan World Resort last Thursday night.

About 23 performers from Beijing, China showcased their talents in various cultural dances and skills.

Prior to the hour-long energetic and colorful performances, Saipan Mayor David Apatang welcomed the guests to the CNMI.

"The people of Saipan and I are honored to extend a warm *hafa adai* and welcome to Pu Tian Tong Le art group. I am very happy to meet you all. Its always a great opportunity to learn from people of different cultural background," Apatang said.

Fan dance is a Chinese dance performed by young ladies as form of attracting males.

An acrobat balances various materials using his mouth and stick.

The event was organized by Top Development, Inc. in partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The father of TDI's Fang Hai Tao, who is a community leader in Beijing, organized the group because "they realized a lot of the Chinese people like Saipan because of the beauty and the hospitality of the local people."

"The purpose of bringing this group is to introduce the Chinese culture to the CNMI," Fang said in Chinese.

"My father came to Saipan many times. He loves Saipan, the nature, beauty, and environment. The local people are very nice and friendly," he added.

A performer showcases a cultural dance from the Tibetan region.

Fang, who has been on Saipan for 28 years, hopes to have more projects like this in the future.

According to MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas, MVA assisted the group in bringing the performers in Saipan.

"We assisted a little bit with the arrangements for them to come here. We extended an invitation to them to come here. With that invitation they were able to kind of fundraise for their airfare," Duenas said.

The group also made a public appearance at the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

"The MVA is always looking for opportunities to promote cultural exchange and this is why we support this kind of activity. We hope this will not be the last and hope that they come back," Duenas said.

Dancers perform an almost modern number with balls as props.

In celebration of her new life

Cecilia Aguon Nestor

November 17, 1948 – May 12, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: Francisco Aguon
Francisca Rull Aguon
Father/Mother In-Law: Fatonamai Nestor Moses
Justina Bosen
Son: Geoffrey Koshiba
Brothers: Ipolitu Aguon
Juliano Matsutaro
Julio Matsutaro

Her memory will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Marino Y. Nestor
Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchild:
Norma A. Nestor *(Shanae Aaliyah)*
Snyder Nestor & Andrina *(Snyder Jr., Shayner Alec, Styner Austin, Shannin Aerial)*
Gladys Nestor & Murphy *(Shayna Lei [Midol], Shelyn, Shantee Mae, Jeter Ty)*
Gayle N. Pua & Nobert *(Louvicki Francil, Jesus Marino, Jovina Cecilia, Levonnie Delia)*
Nicole N. Wolford & Mike *(Shemar Jahkobe, Mykailah Lucille, Myah Jade, Shemaiyah Mykenzi, Mykah Nicholas)*
Reared Children:
Sohaila A. Nestor
Sherish Marie A. Nestor
Brothers & Sisters In-law:
Kangich/†Emiko & Children
Antonio F. Aguon/Leonilia & Children
Tobias Aguon/Lily & Children
Antonia Aguon & Children
Maria Aguon & Children
Rita Matsutaro & Children
Zita Spis/Benaya & Children
Robustiano Matustaro/Frances and child
Juliana Matsutaro & Children
Ignacio Matsutaro

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, cousins & friends.

On Friday, May 20, 2016, at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from CHCC to her residence in Kagman III, Banalu St. for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Santa Soledad Church at 11:00am, followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You- Mesulang

Marino Y. Nestor and Children

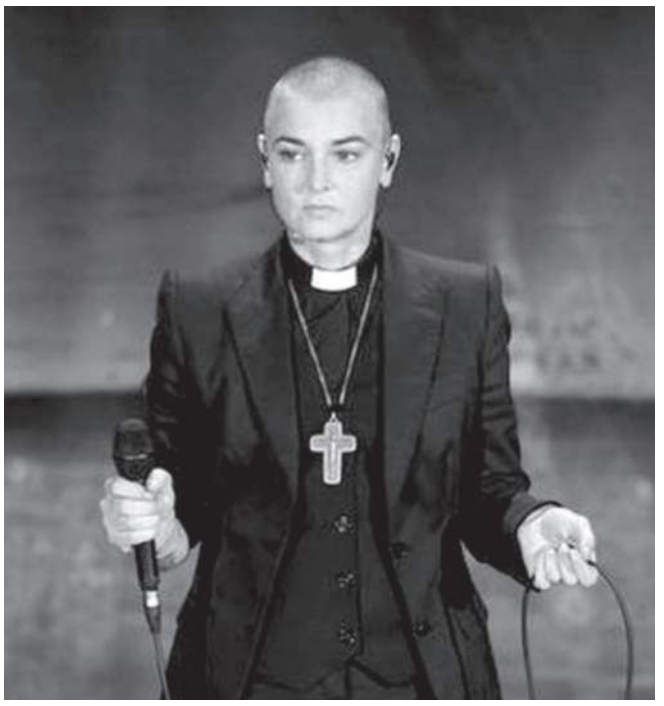
Police say Sinead O'Connor found safe, no details released

CHICAGO (AP)—Police in suburban Chicago said Irish singer-songwriter Sinead O'Connor was found safe Monday after officers received a report that she never returned from a Sunday bike ride in the area.

Wilmette police spokesman Eric Peterson said O'Connor had been located, "is safe and no longer considered a missing or endangered person," though he wouldn't say where she was found or release details about her condition.

Local police issued a well-being check for O'Connor earlier Monday, saying someone called to report that she hadn't been seen since leaving for a bicycle ride early Sunday morning. It's unclear why O'Connor was in Wilmette, an upper-class suburb about 15 miles north of Chicago along Lake Michigan.

O'Connor, who has performed at least twice in Chicago this year, scored an international hit in 1990 with her rendition of Prince's ballad "Nothing Compares 2 U."



AP

In this Oct. 5, 2014 file photo, Irish singer Sinead O'Connor performs during the Italian State RAI TV program "Che Tempo che Fa", in Milan, Italy.

The gifted but troubled singer-songwriter is known as much for her fierce and expressive voice as her shaved head and blunt criticism of the Catholic Church and other institutions.

Police said she reportedly left for her bike ride at 6 a.m. Sunday. About two hours later, a rambling message was posted on her official Facebook page that cited an upcoming court hearing and a child custody dispute. On Friday, a long message posted as an "open letter to my son Shane" encouraged the 12-year-old to bring his own case against Tusla, a child welfare agency in Ireland.

Paradigm Talent Agency, which represents O'Connor, declined comment when reached by The Associated Press earlier Monday. Her publicist didn't return a message.

O'Connor was sued this month by comedian Arsenio Hall over a Facebook post that stated investigators looking into the supplier of drugs used by Prince should question Hall. She also accused him of drugging her. The lawsuit seeks $5 million.

And in November, she posted a message on Facebook saying she had taken an overdose at a hotel somewhere in Ireland. Irish police later said she had been found safe. The next month, O'Connor posted on Facebook that she had been detained in a hospital for mental health evaluation.

Her rendition of "Nothing Compares 2 U" topped charts from Europe to Australia, and earned O'Connor multiple Grammy Award nominations. In 1991, O'Connor was named Artist of the Year by Rolling Stone.

But her blunt-spoken manner often drew criticism, especially in the United States. In 1990, some U.S radio stations refused to play her music after she banned the "Star-Spangled Banner" from her show in New Jersey. She drew intense criticism in 1992 when she ripped up a picture of Pope John Paul II on "Saturday Night Live."

O'Connor, who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder more than a decade ago, has spoken of her mental health problems. She told Oprah Winfrey in 2007 that before her diagnosis she had struggled with thoughts of suicide and overwhelming fear. She said at the time that medication had helped her find more balance, but "it's a work in progress." In 2012, O'Connor canceled a planned tour, saying she her doctor had told her to rest after a "very serious breakdown."

Over the years, O'Connor has voiced support for other young female performers facing intense public scrutiny, including Britney Spears and Miley Cyrus. O'Connor—who has been married four times and has four children—signed a deal in 2014 to write a memoir.

Box Office Top 20: 'Captain America' adds $72.6 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Captain America: Civil War" continued to flex its muscles in its second weekend in theaters, earning a box office-topping $72.6 million, according to actual sales figures reported by the studios on Monday. The superhero showdown has now earned $296 million in North America.

"Civil War" easily beat the star-studded new opener "Money Monster," which opened in third place behind "The Jungle Book" with $14.8 million. Even with big names like Julia Roberts and George Clooney, though, "Money Monster" cost only $27 million to produce.

The micro budget horror movie "The Darkness" debuted in fourth place $5 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

AP

In this image released by Disney, Anthony Mackie, from left, Paul Rudd, Jeremy Renner, Chris Evans, Elizabeth Olsen and Sebastian Stan appear in a scene from "Captain America: Civil War."

1. "**Captain America: Civil War**," Disney, $72,637,142, 4,226 locations, $17,188 average, $295,966,220, 2 weeks.
2. "**The Jungle Book**," Disney, $17,115,708, 3,970 locations, $4,311 average, $311,111,818, 5 weeks.
3. "**Money Monster**," Sony, $14,788,157, 3,104 locations, $4,764 average, $14,788,157, 1 week.
4. "**The Darkness**," High Top Releasing, $4,950,859, 1,755 locations, $2,821 average, $4,950,859, 1 week.
5. "**Mother's Day**," Open Road, $3,287,342, 3,291 locations, $999 average, $28,785,462, 3 weeks.
6. "**Zootopia**," Disney, $2,825,734, 1,935 locations, $1,460 average, $331,840,173, 11 week.
7. "**The Huntsman: Winter's War**," Universal, $2,629,825, 2,518 locations, $1,044 average, $44,589,075, 4 weeks.
8. "**Keanu**," Warner Bros., $1,924,383, 2,120 locations, $908 average, $18,636,886, 3 weeks.
9. "**Barbershop: The Next Cut**," Warner Bros., $1,668,455, 1,333 locations, $1,252 average, $51,349,157, 5 weeks.
10. "**The Boss**," Universal, $1,197,715, 1,350 locations, $887 average, $61,159,415, 6 weeks.
11. "**Ratchet And Clank**," Focus Features, $629,742, 1,258 locations, $501 average, $8,146,999, 3 weeks.
12. "**Sing Street**," The Weinstein Company, $619,970, 525 locations, $1,181 average, $1,893,105, 5 weeks.
13. "**Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice**," Warner Bros., $520,813, 744 locations, $700 average, $328,200,056, 8 weeks.
14. "**The Man Who Knew Infinity**," IFC Films, $508,676, 192 locations, $2,649 average, $917,051, 3 weeks.
15. "**My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2**," Universal, $489,485, 717 locations, $683 average, $58,977,375, 8 weeks.
16. "**Green Room**," A24, $411,376, 777 locations, $529 average, $2,707,971, 5 weeks.
17. "**The Meddler**," Sony Pictures Classics, $372,941, 127 locations, $2,937 average, $1,106,114, 4 weeks.
18. "**Eye In The Sky**," Bleecker Street, $366,628, 360 locations, $1,018 average, $17,892,030, 10 weeks.
19. "**Hello, My Name Is Doris**," Roadside Attractions, $248,189, 259 locations, $958 average, $13,779,669, 10 weeks.
20. "**A Hologram For The King**," Roadside Attractions, $233,962, 346 locations, $676 average, $3,872,883, 4 weeks.

'Everybody Loves Raymond' star Roberts memorialized in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Doris Roberts, who played the endlessly meddling mother on CBS' "Everybody Loves Raymond," was remembered Monday as a tireless actress, a loyal friend and someone who could make even a monster on TV be adored.

"Here's how good she was: She played the most intrusive, overbearing, noisy woman—always starting fights and whatnot and meddling in our business—and yet when I asked the fans who their favorite character was, all the time it was her," said Ray Romano, who played her TV son. "She was so good at portraying the love that was underneath."

The public memorial tribute was held at the Ambassador Theatre, where she appeared in 1972 in "The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild" with Maureen Stapleton. Roberts died April 17 at age 90.

The speakers also included CBS head Les Moonves, "Everyone Loves Raymond" creator Phil Rosenthal, "Frasier" star David Hyde Pierce and Michael Cannata, the actress' son. Messages were read by playwright Terrence McNally and actress Tyne Daly, and Barbara Cook sang "Here's to Life."

Roberts won four Emmy Awards for her portrayal of Marie Barone on "Everybody Loves Raymond," receiving a total of seven nominations as best supporting actress for the sitcom, which ran for nine years.

Romano called her "the MVP of our cast" and a "second mom" who would kindly go over and whisper "fabulous" to him after acting scenes in which he felt vulnerable.

Moonves told a story of when Roberts was in a contractual dispute over salary. She called him one night with a simple request: "Darling," she said, "Do the right thing." Moonves, a tough negotiator, instantly caved.

Roberts also was known for her role in the 1980s TV detective series "Remington Steele." She appeared in a variety of movies, including "The Rose," ''The Taking of Pelham One Two Three" and "Madea's Witness Protection."

The actress began her stage career on Broadway in the 1950s, amassing credits that eventually included Neil Simon's "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and McNally's "Bad Habits."

Roberts lent her energy for children affected by AIDS, always stopped to sign autographs, took acting classes until she was 89 and will have four movies out this year. "She never stopped," Romano said. "She would shame us with her energy and drive."

Pierce, a friend since 1992, said she was a fiercely loyal. He recalled one Emmy Awards in which he was up against "Everybody Loves Raymond" star Brad Garrett for best supporting actor. Roberts was sitting behind Garrett and was captured on film stunned and mouthing the word "What?" when Pierce's name was called as the winner.

"Everyone was putting on their pretend faces but Doris never put on a pretend face," he said. "I will always love her for the candor and family loyalty. Also, I want to say, Doris, that was the exact reaction I had when they told me you were gone.'"

Jimmy Fallon does his take on 'Hamilton'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon donned a period costume Monday for a "Hamilton" takeoff at NBC's annual presentation of next season's schedule.

The "Tonight" show host walked down the aisle at Radio City Music Hall for a comic spoof on the business of television. He told the advertisers that "we're selling you commercials at crazy rates, crazy rates."

He joked that NBC has 10 news shows, all with "Chicago" in the name. It was a reference to Dick Wolf's expanding franchise of Windy City-based dramas, which will include a fourth, "Chicago Justice," next season.

Fallon received one of his biggest laughs when he previewed what advertising executives can expect this week: "See the networks lie through their teeth," he said.

The NBC Universal event had its own red carpet, as stars including Miley Cyrus, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Lopez and Seth Meyers all appeared. "Saturday Night Live" star Kate McKinnon impersonated Ellen DeGeneres.

AP

In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, Jimmy Fallon attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York.

JK Rowling honored by PEN for literary and humanitarian work

NEW YORK (AP)—J.K. Rowling's passion for free expression is so strong it extends to someone she'd otherwise not care to discuss: Donald Trump.

Speaking Monday night before hundreds gathered for PEN America's annual gala at the American Museum of Natural History, the "Harry Potter" author noted that she opposed a recent petition calling for banning the presumptive Republican presidential nominee from entering the United Kingdom, saying such actions endangered everyone's rights.

Rowling received a PEN award for her writing and her humanitarian work.

PEN, the literary and human rights organization, also honored imprisoned Egyptian author Ahmed Naji, whose brother Mohamed accepted on his behalf; Hachette Book Group CEO Michael Pietsch; and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and LeeAnne Walters, who helped expose deadly levels of lead in the water in Flint, Michigan.

AP

In this April 9, 2015 file photo, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling lights the Empire State Building to mark the launch of her non-profit children's organization Lumos, in New York.

Weather anchor's dress sparks social-media firestorm

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's become so common for some female TV weather reporters to dress like they are on the way to a cocktail party that their dresses should have long ago ceased to raise any eyebrows among viewers.

But there was eyebrow-raising aplenty across the Internet this week after KTLA-TV weather anchor Liberte Chan's co-host handed her a dull-looking, gray sweater and she pulled it on over her black, sparkly, spaghetti-strap evening dress while delivering her report Saturday.

"You want me to put this on? Why? Because it's cold?" Chan quipped when co-host Chris Burrous dangled the sweater from off camera as she was in the middle of explaining why the gloomy weather gripping LA was going to stick around awhile.

"We're getting emails," he answered.

That was nothing compared to what they would get in the days ahead.

Soon Chan and her black, sparkly dress were trending on social media. The cast of NBC's "Today" show was cracking wise ("It's never the crime, it's the cover-up," Savannah Guthrie said). New York Daily News columnist Linda Stasi was saying it was time TV stopped making its women dress like strippers while allowing fat, bald, old men to deliver the news.

"You would think this is Trump versus Clinton," Burrous said on Sunday's broadcast. "Never before have we received so many emails."

He didn't say how many, and KTLA officials didn't respond to a phone message Monday. But Burrous said the vote was roughly 50-50 in favor of and against the dress.

'The Handmaiden' director defends sex scenes as necessary

CANNES, France (AP)—Director Park Chan-wook is defending his use of elaborate lesbian sex scenes in his erotic thriller "The Handmaiden," saying that avoiding them would be like "a war film without battle scenes."

The film, adapted from the Welsh novel "Fingersmith," is the tale of a young maid who is hired to seduce a rich heiress, only to fall in love with her. Together the two women plot their revenge on the men who tried to destroy them.

"Although it is the story of four people, two men and two women, it is clear that the love between these two women is the key element of the film. In the portrayal of this love, emotions and desire, there's no way around avoiding the act that arises from such raw emotion and desire," the South Korean director said Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival. "I think avoiding it would be odd, like a war film without battle scenes."

AP

Director Park Chan-Wook, centre and actress Kim Tae-Ri pose for photographers upon arrival at the screening of the film The Handmaiden at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 14, 2016.

Calling all sweet tooths -- pleasure can be yours!

DEAR ABBY: I've heard that your dessert recipes are unmatchable and I'd like to have them. Some time ago, I saw a column that mentioned cookbooklets you have available for purchase. I hope that this is still correct, because I'm interested in ordering them.

By the way, what is YOUR favorite dessert recipe, Abby?

ANITA IN SADDLE BROOK, N.J.

DEAR ANITA: That's a hard question to answer because I have a notorious sweet tooth. The Coconut Cake With Custard Frosting, Chocolate Cake With Fluffy White Frosting (and chocolate drippings!), Cheesecake, Pecan Pie, the Chocolate Mousse and -- believe it or not— the Fruitcake recipe, which is filled with nuts but not "cakey," are all favorites of mine. I have also served the Almond Coffeecake, Heavenly Peanut Butter Pie and Sweet Potato Pie to friends while entertaining, and received the ultimate compliment—a request for "just a little more."

All of the recipes in my two cookbooklets have been used again and again. Some of them have won blue ribbons at county fairs; others have been featured on the covers of women's magazines. The booklets are still available and can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. My cookbooklet set contains more than 100 tasty recipes that also include soups, salads, appetizers and, of course, main courses. I know you will enjoy them all because my family and dinner guests -- as well as other readers—have raved about them.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Donna," and I are former co-workers. She divorced recently but has hooked up—and is shacking up—with a co-worker of mine, "James." James and I work on the same shift every weekend. Ugh!

James invited a woman to the job for a lunch date. Should I say something to Donna? I'm not a fan of his because he seemed sneaky before the "lunch date." Donna says she's happy. We limit our conversation about him because I hate to badmouth him knowing how she feels about him. But I'm bothered knowing he didn't care enough to not let on to me about his infidelity. It's like he wants ME to bring the bad news. I haven't, but I need to know how to proceed.

My husband says I should mind my own business to keep work stress-free. What is your advice?

HATES WORKPLACE DRAMA

DEAR H.W.D.: For now, I'm voting with your husband. One lunch date is not an affair, and you don't know what James' relationship with the woman may be. It could be innocent, so give him the benefit of the doubt.

However, if he continues to bring her around, I can see how you might want to ask Donna who the woman is. That's not bringing bad news; it's an innocent question.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

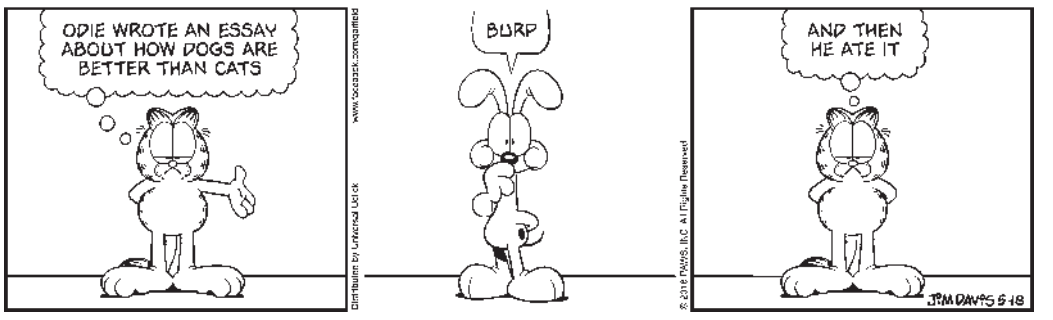
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WE'RE SEPARATED FROM THE TROOP AND HOPELESSLY LOST!
LEFT ALONE IN THE UNCOMPROMISING WILD TO SURVIVE BY OUR WITS UNAIDED!
HEY, DUMMY! THE SCOUTMASTER SAYS TO GRAB YOUR STUPID STUFFED TIGER AND GET YOUR REAR IN GEAR!
WE'LL TRY TO LOSE 'EM AGAIN OVER THE NEXT HILL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HUH. I CAN'T FIND MY PUBLISHER ONLINE EITHER.
SGIASU PUBLISHING? MAYBE IT'S AN ACRONYM.
MAYBE IT STANDS FOR..."SOME GUY IN A STORAGE UNIT" PUBLISHING.
HA!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THAT'S A NOTE FROM MY MOTHER ON WHY I NEED OFF THIS FRIDAY.
"ENO WANTS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE SOUP KITCHEN BEFORE HELPING OUT AT THE RESCUE SHELTER."
HOW COME IT'S WRITTEN ON A BAR NAPKIN?
UH, MOM'S GOT A PROBLEM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Facts and figures
5 Conditions
8 Nile bird
12 "Zounds!"
13 Sneaky chuckle
14 Has to
15 Bring down the house?
17 Entreaty
18 Start, as a hobby
19 "Swan Lake," e.g.
21 Canape topping
22 "Dream on!"
23 Folkloric fairy queen
26 Tax form ID
28 High nest
31 Reunion attendee
33 Tolkien monster
35 Glum
36 Imam's faith
38 Fine, to NASA
40 Deity
41 Wheels of fortune?
43 Entreat
45 Composer Gustav
47 Guatemala neighbor
51 Sci-fi villain
52 News flash
54 Taj Mahal city
55 Mamie's man
56 Wine region
57 Crooned
58 Actor Danson
59 Hotel worker

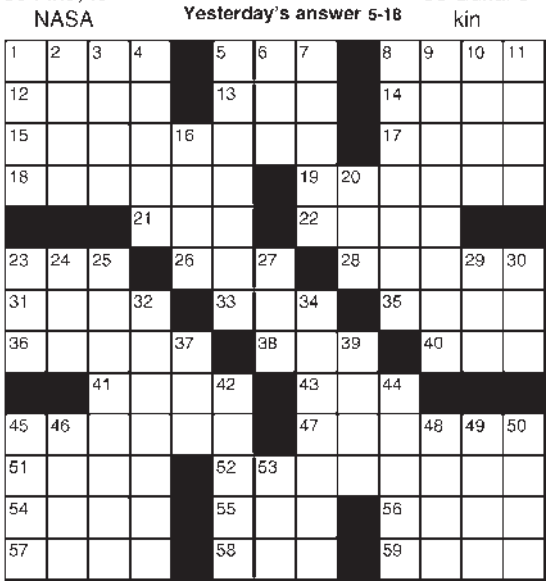
DOWN

1 Arrears
2 Water, to Juan
3 Chat
4 Grace's surname on "Will & Grace"
5 "Fingers crossed"
6 Shriner's chapeau
7 Biblical realm
8 Tacit
9 Jumping croaker
10 "Got it"
11 Doc's "Now!"
16 Pairs
20 Simile center
23 — tai (cocktail)
24 Gore and Green
25 Megaphone's kin
27 Gun lobby org.
29 — Jima
30 Conclude
32 Postal tote
34 Repaired, as shoes
37 Bovary's title (Abbr.)
39 Fall (over)
42 Planet's path
44 Sparkle
45 Many corp. recruits
46 Pond growth
48 "— deal!" ("Sold!")
49 Tubular pasta
50 Author Bagnold
53 Guitar's kin

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	C	U	D		P	B	S		H	A	Z	Y
C	A	N	E		A	L			O	G	E	
A	F		E	P	Y	O	U		W	A	S	A
N	E	O		O	U	T		D	A	R	T	H
			I	M	P		O	J	R			
G	A	M	M	A		O	K	E		F	F	
A	B	O	W		A	N	S		Y	O	R	K
L	U	C	I	A	N	O		D	O	G	I	
			T	N	T		E	A	L			
G	U	S	H	Y		A	V	I		T	I	M
O	B	E	Y		B	L	E	S	S	Y	O	U
L	E		O		C	A	R		O	R	T	S
F	R	A	J		D	R	Y		B	O	A	S

Yesterday's answer 5-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Fey, 46; George Strait, 64; Reggie Jackson, 70; Robert Morse, 85.

Happy Birthday: You'll be tempted to make changes this year that will influence your work and the relationships with people you have known a long time. Look at the big picture and pursue alternatives that will allow you to take part in a new venture without letting go of what you have worked so hard to achieve and maintain. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 27, 31, 33, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A personal change will lift your spirits. Make plans with someone special and you will come up with an idea that will save each of you money and bring you closer together. When it comes to love, say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stay on track, even if someone makes an unpredictable move. Use your intelligence, knowledge and experience to help you advance and open up opportunities with people you want to work with in the future. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Social events and shopping sprees will lead to overspending. Try offering time, patience and hands-on help instead of paying for others. A change will do you good. Personal improvements will pay off. Make a commitment. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for an opening that will allow you to delve into something new and inviting. Looking for something unique or different to do with your time will encourage you to improve your attitude. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The people you offer to help may end up taking advantage of you. You'll gain the most if you take part in activities or events that will bring you valuable information that you can use to improve your life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have the wherewithal to step up your game and get things done. Don't let others dump responsibilities on you that will deter you from achieving what you set out to do. Mingle, network and share ideas with upwardly mobile people. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let what others do or say lead to indecision. Stick to your strategy and follow through with your plans. Move in a direction that excites you. Plan a mini-vacation or something that will give you greater incentive. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Ask questions and show interest in what others do, and you will gather enough information to make an informed decision about your home, work and future. A unique spin on an old idea will lead to an interesting partnership. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Nothing will be offered for free. Before you agree to something, find out what's expected of you and how much it will cost. Someone will mislead you if you aren't specific, so ask direct questions and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let the changes others make deter you from doing your own thing. Concentrate on personal and professional investments that can alter the way you live. A partnership looks promising. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anyone sidetrack you. It's important to stick to your plan and bring about the changes that will help you advance. Good fortune is within your reach if you make the effort and take the initiative. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting involved in a reunion or reconnecting with someone you have worked with in the past will lead to an interesting opportunity. Discuss your ideas and consider forming a partnership with someone who will complement what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, creative and strong-willed. You are innovative and independent.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
			5		6			
		3				1		
	6						9	
1		4	7	8	5	2		3
	5						7	
	8			7	3		4	
	3			5	4		1	
	4	2	9	6	1	7	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	8	5	7	3	6	9	2
7	6	3	1	2	9	4	8	5
5	2	9	6	8	4	3	1	7
1	7	5	2	9	6	8	4	3
6	3	2	4	5	8	9	7	1
8	9	4	7	3	1	2	5	6
2	5	6	8	4	7	1	3	9
9	4	7	3	1	2	5	6	8
3	8	1	9	6	5	7	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/17

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CALMING TENSION Solution: 7 letters

O	H	E	S	S	E	N	S	S	E	L	T	S	E	R
U	V	C	S	E	W	E	H	T	O	O	S	E	E	N
T	N	E	T	A	T	S	T	I	L	L	N	D	O	E
D	A	W	R	E	E	T	A	L	E	E	N	I	G	L
O	E	I	I	W	R	P	L	E	R	E	T	A	A	S
O	D	L	C	N	H	T	P	E	V	A	S	C	N	S
R	G	D	I	H	D	E	S	A	T	S	I	O	X	E
S	I	I	E	M	I	I	L	I	A	S	K	M	I	R
U	N	C	C	R	S	I	D	M	Y	I	I	P	E	T
N	E	A	N	O	U	E	S	H	E	K	Y	O	T	S
L	S	L	N	Q	M	T	P	A	O	D	D	S	Y	E
I	S	P	N	U	R	F	S	A	U	B	O	E	O	I
G	Y	A	S	A	G	L	O	O	C	N	B	D	G	V
H	R	I	I	H	U	M	O	R	P	E	A	Y	A	O
T	C	N	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	E	D	N	I	M

©2018 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/18

Anxiety, Appease, Body, Collected, Comfort, Composed, Cool, Edginess, Hobby, Humor, Hypnosis, Kiss, Lavender, Massage, Meditation, Mind, Movies, Music, Outdoors, Overwhelmed, Pace, Physical, Placid, Posture, Restlessness, Sauna, Serene, Settle, Sleep, Smile, Soothe, Still, Strain, Stress, Stretch, Sunlight, Tai Chi, Tranquil, Unwind, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Chunnel

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or **21** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Carpenter - $6.55/hr. 4 years experience. Hong Electric Ent. Inc. Email: hongeei@pticom.com.

Looking for Network Marketers. Earn additional income. Email resume to opportunity@valuepacific.net

MARIANAS OUTSOURCE LLC. is looking for 1 Full time Computer Specialist, Part Timer - 1 Grounds Keeper, 1 Commercial Cleaner, General Maintenance - $6.05/hr. Interested US qualified applicants send resume & police clearance at marianasoutsource@gmail.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Auto Marine Inc.
(1) Customer Representative
Must have 3 years experience in dealing with Customers
Knowledgeable in Boat Scheduling and Dispatching.
Send your resume at santos_adonis@yahoo.com
Contact No. 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
LSG SKYCHEFS SAIPAN
(1) Operation Supervisor
Qualifications: Graduation from a recognized college or university with an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in public or business administration or closely related field and 3-4 years of professional activities; or airline catering activities.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
BL MACHINE SHOP
(3) Machinist
Must have 3 years experience. Have knowledge in fabrication and modifying parts.
Please send your resume at blmachineshop@yahoo.com.
Contact No. 235-2567

PKCL ENTERPRISES

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Building Maintenance Repairer (2)
High School graduate or equivalent, 5 years work experience in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, masonry, and various other construction and repair work. $6.05/hour

Grounds Maintenance (1)
High School graduate or equivalent with 5 years work experience. Must be honest and trustworthy. Works flexible hours. $6.05/hour

Send resume to PKCL ENTERPRISES, P.O. Box 501957, Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AQUAVILLE INC.
(1) Manager
Must have 3 years experience in Managing Marine Sports Operation. Can speak Korean, English and Chinese. Please send your resume at Santos_adonis@yahoo.com
Contact No.: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MACS MARINE
(1) Maintenance Repairer
Must have 3 years experience.
Knowledgeable in Fiber Glassing.
Please send your resume at Santos_adonis@yahoo.com.
Contact No.: 322-6227

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AUTO MARINE
(1) Commercial Diver
Must have 3 years experience in Scuba Diving. Can speak English, Japanese and Chinese. Please send your resume at Santos_adonis@yahoo.com.
Contact No.: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Philpan International Inc. need
(1) Sales Representative
Must have 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Invoicing
Contact No. 783-0367

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Teacher Aide for K4 & K5

Saipan International School is hiring a full-time teacher aide for our K4 & K5 program. Experience working with young children is required. A BA in Early Childhood or Elementary Education is preferred.

Please send your resume to the Headmaster, Mr. Bray, at t.bray@sissaipan.net or drop it off at the office.

SIS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

Help Wanted
Mariana Entertainment LLC is recruiting immediately for 1 (one)

Assistant Club Manager

Job Duties to include (but not limited to):
Assist Club Manager with the overall operation of staffing; cash handling and counting; vendor relations; supply ordering and accountability; profitability and operational efficiencies; general operational procedures and regulatory compliance.
Qualifications: 3 years previous management experience in gaming and/or cash handling operation required. Customer service experience preferred. Must be able to obtain CNMI gaming license.
One, full-time position available.

Please email resume to:
Club88mholl@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc., DBA: Club C has a job opening for the following position:

Guest Services Officer (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the guest services desk on a designated shift. Ensure full support is given to visiting junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge. Assist in obtaining player information to develop and maintain a comprehensive player database. Assist in the preparation of departmental reports. And other duties as assign.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience as a guest services officer in a casino, slots or gaming club or lounge or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where guests services skills are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English and Chinese Mandarin. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Must be computer literate with effective negotiating and problem solving skills.

Compensation: This position will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualifications, work experience and ability to perform.

Job Location: Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road, Saipan

Application: Interested qualified applicant may pick up an Employment Application form at our HR Department from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm. No phone calls. Employment Application form must be accompanied with a resume, valid ID and certificates to support the application form. Deadline for submission of completed applications is June 01, 2016 at 5:00pm. Applicant must be eligible to work in the United States.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant position

Tailor (1)
- Measures, makes or alters uniforms for new employees. Repairs and maintain uniforms for all hotel employees. Organize and take inventory for all fabric materials, perform other duties as may be assigned by immediate superior.
- Must have 2 years tailoring experience. Is able to work well under pressure in a fast pace environment. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than May 26, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: In denial

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

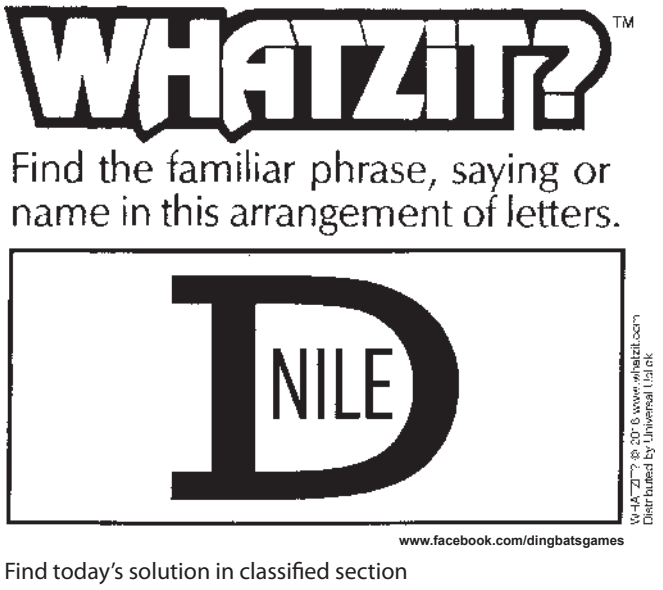
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Thunder storm back, beat Warriors in Game 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Outside his locker room, first-year Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan received a round of handshakes and hugs for pulling off something no other team has this postseason.

The Thunder beat the defending champs at Oracle Arena.

Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and Oklahoma City dazzled in the fourth quarter the way the Warriors have done so many times during their record-setting season, rallying from 14 points down for a 108-102 victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals Monday night.

"You have to have a mindset coming into these kinds of venues. Our guys, I think they understand what they're walking into," Donovan said. "You don't just walk in here say, 'Oh, everything's going to be OK.' You have to have a mindset to understand. The first thing is to embrace the fact it's going to be hard."

Durant scored 26 points and made a key 17-foot jumper with 30.7 seconds left, while Westbrook scored 24 of his 27 points in the second half. Westbrook also had 12 assists and seven steals in the opener of the Thunder's fourth West finals in six years.

"We just stayed with it on the defensive end and when we got the shots late in the game we were able to focus in and knock them down," Durant said. "We're just a resilient group and keep fighting 'til the end."

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Oracle Arena. If this one was any kind of preview of what is coming, this should be a dandy of a series between the NBA's highest-scoring teams from the regular season.

"We've just got to compete," Westbrook said. "It's going to be a tough game. It's a tough building. They have a lot of great players on their team, but I know we're a great team and when we put our minds to it, tonight we didn't play our best game and we came out with a win."

Steven Adams made a pair of free throws for Oklahoma City with 1:01 remaining, and Klay Thompson missed a reverse lay-in moments later on the other end. Adams finished with 16 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots.

MVP Stephen Curry had 26 points and a playoff career-high 10 rebounds, but the Warriors missed too many shots down the stretch. The Warriors' 42 second-half points and 14 in the fourth both were lows for this postseason.

"We got rushed and tried to go for the home-run plays. Sometimes it works," Curry said. "Defensively we were getting enough stops and rebounds. We got out of character a little bit. It's something we'll learn from going forward."

With his team down 105-102, Steve Kerr begged for a traveling call on Westbrook at midcourt with 17.2 seconds left, with the NBA Coach of the Year signaling with his arms before going into a squat. Oklahoma City got a timeout instead. Westbrook made one free throw with 14.5 seconds to go.

"I do think we lost our poise a little bit," Kerr said. "And that had a lot to do with the quick shots."

Thompson scored 19 of his 25 points in the first half, but shot 3 for 10 over the last two quarters. Curry's 3-pointer to beat the halftime buzzer gave Golden State a 60-47 lead at the break.

Durant scored to get his team within 88-85 going into the final quarter, and then knocked down a tying 3 just 12 seconds into the fourth. Dion Waiters' layup at 10:30 put the Thunder ahead for the first time since the opening quarter.

Westbrook missed nine of his first 10 shots before finding a groove and scoring 19 points in his team's 38-point third quarter. His jumper with 5:03 left pulled Oklahoma City to 73-68 before Thompson answered two possessions later. Westbrook stole the ball from Green and drove the length of the court for a dunk at the 3:07 mark of the third, and that helped swing momentum.

Durant, Serge Ibaka and Adams each had double-digit rebounds - a focal point for Golden State after the Warriors won 121-118 in overtime on Curry's long game-winner at Oklahoma City on Feb. 27 despite being outrebounded 62-32.

Westbrook took a hard hit to the face by Andrew Bogut for a foul ruled a Flagrant 1 after a review at the 5:37 mark of the first quarter. Trainers checked Westbrook's mouth.

"Time of the year you're going to get hit but you've got to find a way to get back up," Westbrook said.

Curry was 9 for 22 from the field, including a 6-for-14 performance from beyond the arc, and committed seven turnovers to go with seven assists. He hit a 3-pointer in his 45th straight playoff game, breaking Reggie Miller's record set from 1995-2000.

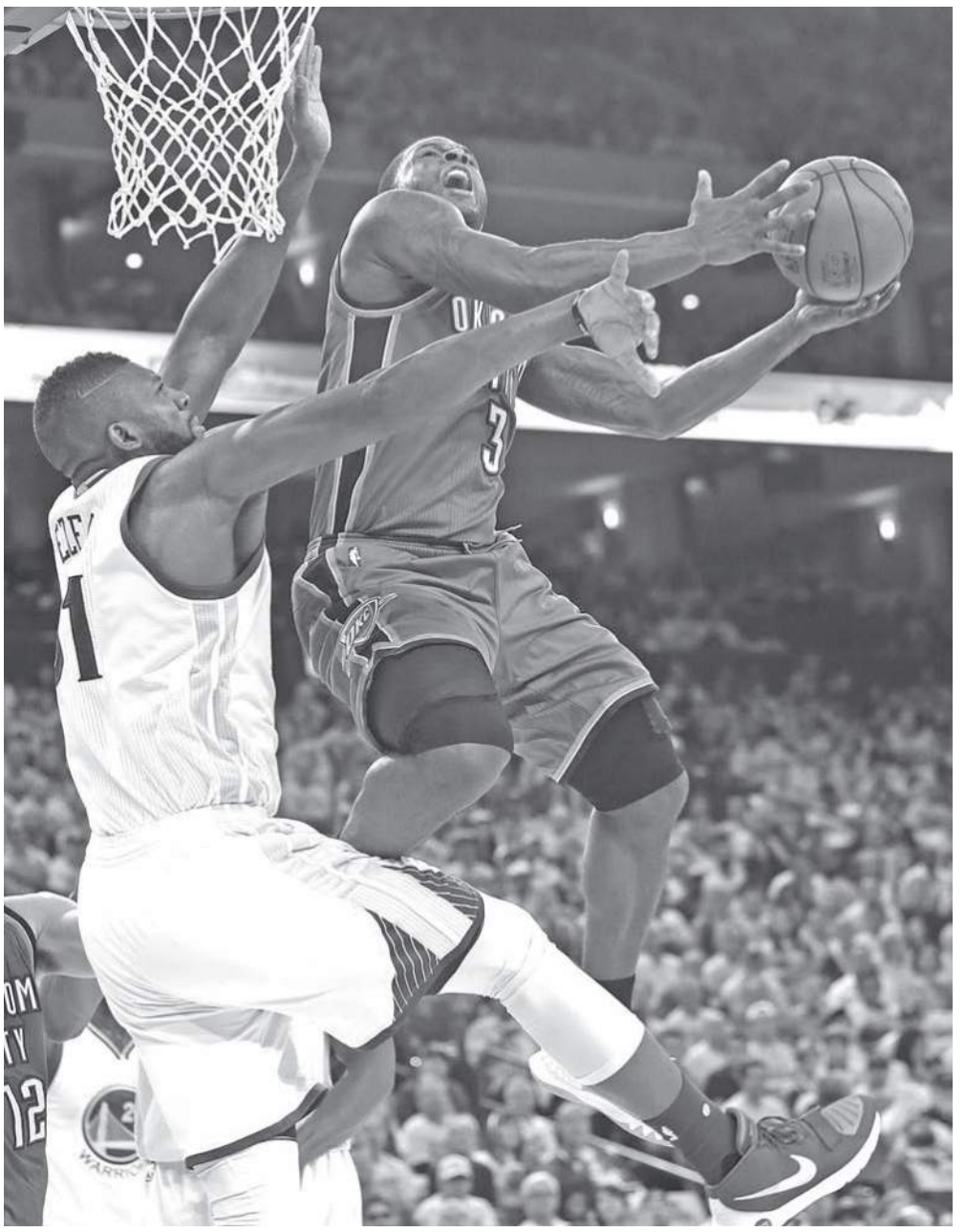
"It's not a good feeling losing Game 1, especially at home," Curry said. "It's fun to have this opportunity to come back, show what we're made of."

This marked the unanimous MVP's second straight start since coming off the bench in Game 4 against the Trail Blazers following a right knee sprain that still isn't 100 percent. He said he can manage just fine, it's just about "pain tolerance" going forward.

Curry and Thompson were the highest-scoring duo in the NBA, averaging 52.2 points, while Durant and Westbrook were a close second at 51.7.

Thompson has scored 20 or more points in eight straight playoff games, the longest such streak by a Warriors player since Tim Hardaway's 12 games in a row from 1991-92.

Westbrook's 19 third-quarter points were the most Golden State allowed to an opposing player in a quarter this postseason.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Dion Waiters, top, shoots against Golden State Warriors center Festus Ezeli during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Oakland, Calif., Monday, May 16, 2016.

Timberwolves' Towns is unanimous Rookie of the Year pick

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns has the height and agility, plus the intensity and intelligence.

Relentlessness might be his most valuable gift of all.

The unflappable 7-footer, admittedly unsatisfied with any performance short of perfection, is a unanimous winner of the NBA Rookie of the Year award, giving the blossoming Minnesota Timberwolves consecutive winners after Andrew Wiggins took the Eddie Gottlieb Trophy last season.

"This is such a landmark in my career," Towns said, "but it's not the last one."

The first pick in the 2015 draft out of Kentucky received all 130 first-place votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters in the United States and Canada, joining Damian Lillard (2013), Blake Griffin (2011), David Robinson (1990) and Ralph Sampson (1984) as recent unanimous winners.

The league unveiled the award Monday. New York's Kristaps Porzingis finished second, and Denver's Nikola Jokic was third.

Towns ranked eighth in the NBA in rebounds and field-goal percentage while producing the best debut for a big man since Tim Duncan in 1998. The 20-year-old Towns averaged 18.1 points, 10.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocks, helping the Timberwolves win 13 more games than the previous season. They're the first team with back-to-back winners of the award since Bob McAdoo (1973) and Ernie DiGregorio (1974) with the Buffalo Braves.

The only rookie in the league to start all 82 games, Towns was named Western Conference rookie of the month in all six months the award was handed out. The figurative wall that so many first-year players hit during a schedule more than twice as long as college never impeded his progress. He only got better, averaging 21.3 points on 55 percent shooting and 11.7 rebounds over the final 31 games.

Experience, LeBron make Cavs huge favorites over Raptors

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James once stood in Kyle Lowry's sneakers.

Back in 2007, James, with a much thicker hairline and more hops than he has today, made his first appearance in the Eastern Conference finals and carried the Cavaliers past Detroit and into the NBA Finals for the first time. Nine years, five straight Finals appearances, four MVP awards and two championship rings later, James is again on the doorstep of the league's showcase event.

It's all new to Lowry, one of Toronto's All-Star guards, and the Raptors.

Experience is just one advantage the Cavs will enjoy when they open the East finals Tuesday night against the Raptors, who have scratched their way through two Game 7s in this postseason and are on their deepest playoff run.

And although the Cavs are recharged following a nine-day break between playoff series and have been in this spot before, James doesn't think his or Cleveland's postseason resume gives them any edge.

"It's not an advantage," James said after practice Monday. "They're here for a reason. You got to go out and play. They also played two seven-game series and we didn't. So they can have the upper edge on that. So, there's no advantage to either team. Both teams are 0-0 and it's the first to four."

The Cavs have yet to go five games in this postseason, completing four-game sweeps over Detroit and Atlanta. James has been his usual dominant self, averaging 23.5 points, 8.8 rebounds and 7.3 assists. But unlike last year when Cleveland lost Kevin Love in the first round to a shoulder injury and Kyrie Irving went down with a broken kneecap in the Finals, James isn't on his own, which is why the Cavs are an overwhelming favorite to make their second straight trip to the title round.

And as if the Raptors didn't have enough to worry about, Lowry, who scored 35 points in Toronto's series-clinching win over Miami, has already taken a swipe at James.

Asked during an on-court interview Sunday about the upcoming matchup with the Cavs, Lowry said, "LeBron's probably one of the best players in the league -- besides Steph (Curry)."

Probably?

James, who last week said he felt Curry deserves to be this year's MVP but questioned the meaning of the award, said he's not offended, offering "none taken," when presented with Lowry's comment. Still, Lowry's slight—unintentional or not—may provide the Cavs with some extra motivation, not that they seem to need any.

Angels closing in on deal to sign Lincecum

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The injury-riddled Los Angeles Angels are closing in on a deal to sign two-time Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum, a free agent trying to come back from hip surgery, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because no deal had been announced.

Lincecum tossed 41 pitches on May 6 for about three dozen scouts representing nearly every major league club in Scottsdale, Arizona, the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants. That's the only team the 31-year-old right-hander has ever pitched for.

Lincecum won the NL Cy Young Award in 2008 and 2009 and made four All-Star Game appearances. He helped the Giants win three World Series titles in five years, and he had a pair of no-hitters against San Diego during an 11-month span between the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

The Angels have been hard-hit by injuries, with seven players currently on the disabled list. They were forced to trade one of their minor league players last week to acquire a fifth starter to complete the rotation, making it possible Lincecum could become a starter.

AP

Pitcher Tim Lincecum throws for MLB baseball scouts, Friday, May 6, 2016, at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz. The former two-time Cy Young award winner is currently a free agent working his way back from hip surgery.

"You're looking at a lot of depth that we were counting on this year that is not there. We're not sure when it's going to re-emerge," manager Mike Scioscia said. "You can't get through a whole season with five and right now we're pretty thin."

Right-handers Garrett Richards and Huston Street and left-handers Andrew Heaney and C.J. Wilson are on the DL, while left-hander Tyler Skaggs is recovering from Tommy John surgery and left bicep tendinitis.

Richards had a stem-cell injection in his elbow Monday and there is no timetable for his return.

"Hopefully it's going to be the course of action he needs to heal and get back to action," Scioscia said.

Shortstop Andrelton Simmons had surgery Monday to repair a thickness tear of the ulnar collateral ligament of his left thumb, an injury he sustained in Sunday's game at Seattle.

Longtime ace Jered Weaver has struggled since going 3-0 with a 3.86 ERA in his first four starts.

The Angels earned a weekend road sweep at Seattle and are in third place in the AL West, trailing leader Texas by 5 1/2 games.

They open the four-game Freeway Series against the Dodgers in Los Angeles on Monday night.

Lincecum went 7-4 with a 4.13 ERA in 15 starts last season. He didn't pitch after June 27 due to degenerative issues with his hips. He had surgery on Sept. 3 and didn't sign with a team after concluding a $35 million, two-year deal last season.

Tiger says he is 'progressing nicely'; no date for return

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Tiger Woods grimaced as he took three warmup swings after sitting in a chair for 30 minutes on a cool, blustery Monday morning at Congressional talking about his upcoming tournament. Hitting a ceremonial shot from a forward tee on the par-3 10th hole, he chunked his first attempt into the pond short of the green.

He asked for another ball. That one splashed, too. With officials from his foundation egging him on, he tried one more time. The last one cleared the pond, but not by enough. It landed on a steep bank and rolled down into the water.

His efforts at Congressional—home to the Quicken Loans National, which he hosts and which benefits his foundation—put to rest most of the lingering questions about whether he'll be ready to return to competitive golf anytime soon.

"I have been practicing at home, and I'm progressing nicely. I'm hoping to play," Woods said. "That's the overriding question I keep hearing: When are you coming back, when are you playing? I get it all the time. If I knew, I'd tell, you, because it'd be fun to know."

Woods, who underwent two back surgeries last fall, said he's getting stronger and hitting the ball better. The tournament at Congressional will be played June 23-26, the week after the U.S. Open, and it certainly appears that Woods will attend only in a noncompetitive role.

Woods, 40, hasn't played since last August, and he's fallen to no. 524 in the world ranking. He said Monday he can't spend nearly as much time practicing as he used to. He's been playing friendly games at Medalist, his home club in Florida, but he's yet to play 18 holes, although he said he's physically capable of playing a full round.

"Everything about my game is coming around. Now it's just a matter of being consistent with it," Woods said. "And then being able to do that not only at home against the boys at Medalist and trying to take their cash, but trying to come out here and doing it against the best players in the world is a completely different deal."

Lamb's 3-run HR helps D-backs beat Yankees

PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona offense finally came alive, and Jake Lamb led the way.

The young third baseman broke open the game with a three-run home run and the Diamondbacks snapped a five-game losing streak with a 12-2 rout of the New York Yankees on Monday night.

Lamb was a triple shy of the cycle, and Arizona had 15 hits after scoring just six runs in losing four straight at home to San Francisco.

"People say it a lot but I think that hitting is a little contagious," Lamb said. "Just to get a game like this, it's kind of like you can take a deep breath and go, `OK, we can hit."

Paul Goldschmidt, 1 for 14 in the Giants series, also homered off Chad Green (0-1) in the right-hander's major league debut. The Diamondbacks had lost seven straight at home.

Robbie Ray (2-2) allowed two runs on six hits in seven innings, his longest outing of the season, and got his first career RBI.

"That's as good as I've ever seen him," Arizona manager Chip Hale said, "in the strike zone, going after guys. He was using his breaking ball, his changeup, but he was really beating them with his fastball. I could hear him grunting out there."

Jacoby Ellsbury tripled and scored for the Yankees, who began a seven-game trip after a 7-3 homestand.

Tigers 10, Twins 8

In Detroit, Nick Castellanos hit a tie-breaking homer in the seventh inning and the Detroit Tigers avoided a humiliating loss Monday night by beating the Minnesota Twins.

The Tigers led 8-0 after one inning with AL ERA leader Jordan Zimmermann on the mound, only to see the Twins come back to tie the game in the seventh. Detroit manager Brad Ausmus was ejected in the middle of the rally for arguing a called third strike. During the argument, he took off his sweatshirt and used it to cover up the plate.

Castellanos homered off Pat Dean (0-1) in the bottom of the seventh to put Detroit back in front. Dean had entered the game in the first inning and threw 90 pitches in 5 1/3 innings.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Marcell Ozuna and Justin Bour hit solo homers, Adam Conley threw six effective innings and Miami beat Philadelphia for its third straight win.

Conley (3-2) gave up one run and eight hits, striking out five. A.J. Ramos allowed a run in the ninth but earned his 12th save in as many tries.

Philadelphia's Jerad Eickhoff (1-6) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings. He's winless in his last six starts.

Bour drove his seventh homer the opposite way to left-center to make it 3-1 in the sixth.

Pirates 8, Braves 5

In Pittsburgh, Matt Joyce homered among his three hits and drove in three runs, Gregory Polanco had three hits and three runs scored and Jon Niese pitched six effective innings to lead Pittsburgh over Atlanta.

Joyce connected for his fifth home run, a two-run shot deep into the left field bleachers, off Alexi Ogando in the seventh.

Niese (4-2) allowed two runs and five hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

Indians 15, Reds 6

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and had four RBI, and Cleveland rallied from an early four-run deficit to beat Cincinnati.

Marlon Byrd hit a two-run homer in a five-run sixth and the Indians erased a 4-0 deficit while recording season highs in runs and hits.

Cincinnati scored four times in the first three innings, but Cleveland tied it with a four-run third and added three in the fourth.

Rays 13, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Curt Casali hit a three-run homer, Tim Beckham and Steve Pearce each hit two-run blasts and Tampa Bay had four homers while beating Toronto.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons was ejected by home plate umpire Mike Winters for arguing a called third strike in the fourth. It was the third ejection of the season for Gibbons and his second in two games—his was one of eight tossed in a game Sunday against Texas that included Rougned Odor's punch to the jaw of Jose Bautista. Toronto has lost three straight.

Angels 7, Dodgers 6

In Los Angeles, led by Albert Pujols and Mike Trout, the Angels' offense is starting to come around. Now if only they could preserve their injury-plagued rotation.

Pujols and Trout combined to drive in six runs and the Angels beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-6 on Monday night for their fourth straight win in the opener of the Freeway Series.

"Albert is starting to find some holes. We're doing a little more offensively," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We set the table all night."

Matt Shoemaker (2-5) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings, struck out five and walked two. The right-hander made it past four innings for just the second time this season in snapping his personal four-game skid with his first win since April 13.

Fernando Salas retired the side on 11 pitches in the ninth for his second save, ending a game that lasted four hours.

Post-season darts, billiards champs crowned

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division and league champions of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association and the Saipan Billiards Association leagues were separately crowned last week at the end of their postseason tournaments.

The Doro's RNV Mixed Nuts ruled the C division after squeezing out an 8-7 win over the Jokers Spartans, while the Jokers Chamberos trounced sister team Northern Lights, 8-3, to clinch the Tuesday B title in the Bud Light Cup.

The Mixed Nuts and Spartans were tied at 7-7 after matches in Partners 501, Singles Crazy, Partners 701, Singles Half-It, and Partners Regular with the former's quintet battling its opponents for every point.

In the end, it was the Mixed Nuts who emerged victorious in the last event, the four-member team match.

The Mixed Nuts defeated Blue Koi Dartcom in their first match then ousted the Jokers Dart-It to clinch a finals berth. The Spartans, on the other hand, downed the Puntan I Langit and Managaha Boyz to earn the right of facing the Mixed Nuts for the title.

In the Tuesday division finals, the Chamberos opened a 5-1 lead en route to the 8-3 win over the Northern Lights.

The Chamberos defeated the Spartans and 21 Shockers on their way to the finals, while the Northern Lights downed the 6JMS G-Side Shooters and VFW Warriors, respectively, to secure a finals berth.

Matches in the Fanihi and Flame Tree divisions of the Bud Light Cup are in the semifinals stage with games to be played on Thursday and the winners playing for the crown on May 26.

The 6JMS Mafia will clash with the Jokers Preba Darts, while the Doro's Alamo Dragons collide with the 6JMS Ta-Chagi Talo in the Fanihi division. The Flame Tree division will have the Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty-Jonny's Kyodai and Na'Gupu-Oleai No Fear matchups.

In the SBA Budweiser Cup of the Thursday Open 8-Ball League, Jokers Alamo Car Rental pulled off a 9-7 decision over the Wild Bills Rack 'N' Roll in the finals.

Alamo tripped the Homeboyz, 9-4, while the Rack 'N' Roll edged Jonny's Team SCS, 9-8. The Homeboyz eliminated the Wild Wild West, while Car Rental ousted the Wildboyz.

Meanwhile, the SBA-Budweiser Pool League's awards banquet is set for May 22, starting at 11am, while the SEDA League's awards ceremony will take place on June 12, also beginning at 11am. Both events will be held at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Jokers Chamberos are the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Cup title holders following their victory over the Jokers Northern Lights in last week's championship match.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jokers Alamo Car Rental players pose for a photo after taking the Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Cup Open 8-Ball League title.

Fanihi

- Ta-Chagi Talo 8, Parakeyu 0 (forfeit)
- Dragons 8, Team Fearless 5
- Preba Darts 8, Dart Vader 5
- Mafia 8, Life After Dart 3

Flame Tree

- Kyodai 8, Serial Killaz 6
- No Fear 8, Oneshot 6
- Na'Gupu 8, Em-Techs 5
- Ridin'Darrty 8, Latte Sparts 5

Resignation after power grab rocks Infantino's new era claim

MEXICO CITY (AP)—It's taken less than 80 days for Gianni Infantino's claim to be leading FIFA into a new era to be publicly undermined.

Infantino was plunged into damage limitation mode on Saturday after a significant figure behind the clean-up of FIFA—independent compliance and audit chief Domenico Scala- quit with a stinging rebuke about the president's conduct.

It left Friday's bold declaration by Infantino that FIFA's crisis had ended looking like his own premature "Mission Accomplished" moment.

It was little wonder Infantino looked so elated when he told delegates "I can officially inform you here, the crisis is over." That claim came after the previous year's FIFA Congress was rocked by the arrests of high-ranking executives.

Infantino had sprung two unexpected moves on the membership that gave the impression of shoring up his fledgling presidency.

While relaxed and preparing to fly home after days of generous hospitality, delegates were potentially blindsided by being asked to approve a change to the statutes that effectively saw Infantino seize control of FIFA's ethics organs.

Only one member association voted against handing FIFA's ruling council the power —if needed—to fire Scala, ethics judge Hans-Joachim Eckert and investigator Cornel Borbely. Despite Eckert and Borbely only discovering the clandestine action when it appeared on congress screens, they do not expect it to impact their work.

But Scala believes the council headed by Infantino could now impede investigations with the threat of dismissal hanging over ethics officials.

In his resignation statement, Scala said Infantino's move "undermines a central pillar of the good governance of FIFA, and it destroys a substantial achievement of the reforms." FIFA dismissed the rebuke as "unfounded."

SAIPAN

From Page 28

With the win, Saipan Fresh arranged a meeting with Kauila for the third semis berth, while San Antonio will duel Mobil for the fourth semis seat. These two matches will be played tonight with the winners joining Ghasias Brothers and CES Electronics to the Final Four.

Ghasias and CES booked the two outright semis tickets after taking the Top 2 spots in the round-robin regular season. Ghasias finished the elimination with a 7-1 record, while CES had a 6-2 mark, beating Mobil in the tiebreak for the second spot. Mobil and Kauila settled for the third and fourth spots and the first round byes that went with their rankings. Saipan Fresh, San Antonio, GMI Market, and Island's Best had similar 3-5 marks to place at No. 5 to 8, while Kalayaan (1-7) was eliminated.

San Antonio kept its finals hopes alive in the nine-team league after grabbing the lead from GMI Market in the second quarter en route to its 15-point win.

San Antonio was behind by a point after the first canto, 22-23, when Jack Aranda and Leo Galarse combined for 12 of their squad's 20 markers to take the upper hand at the break, 42-31. San Antonio never looked back, as other players stepped up in the second half to preserve their double-digit advantage.

First Game

Saipan Fresh 93— Fitial 34, O. Itibus 19, Lauron 16, Pineda 13, Babauta 7, Pestillos 2.

Island's Best 75— Fernando 26, Duenas 14, Devero 13, R. Usi 6, Bayking 3, M. Usi 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-23, 39-40, 62-65, 93-75.

Second Game

San Antonio 79— Aranda 17, De Guzman 15, Dela Rosa 8, Espinosa 8, Galarse 8, Factor 6, Arciaga 6, Barbo 4, Rabasto 3, Leyco 2.

GMI Market 64 — Cruz 17, Nakashima 10, Ito 8, Tekopua 8, Ong 7, Alipio 7, Santos 5, Sablan 5.

Scoring by quarters: 22-23, 42-31, 62-48, 79-64.

LEE

From Page 28

month. Incidentally, Lee and Rengiil will face Rastguiy and Katsumi in the first round of the doubles event, while the former will duel Avril Look of Hong Kong in the second round of the singles contest.

In other results, the three CNMI players in the boys singles were all eliminated.

The second-ranked Cheng-Chieh Wang of Chinese-Taipei booted out Ken Song, 6-0, 6-0, while Japan's Fumiya Yoshino downed Robbie Schorr, 6-1, 6-0, at the lower half of the draw. At the upper half, No. 4 seed Ryuki Matsuda of Japan ousted Moris Villanueva, 6-1, 6-0.

SSC

From Page 28

Acosta also got a PBT in the 50m backstroke (1:09.25) along with Julie Anne Chavez (1:16.19), Ayaka Sato (53.27), Leo Takahashi (46.15), Dino Sato (56.63), and Dominic Zedde (49.45)

Dominic Zedde's third PBT came in the 100m freestyle (1:35.02), while five others had best marks in the same event. The list includes Lennosuke (1:01.33) and Jinnosuke (1:08.65) Suzuki, Ayaka Sato (1:40.45), Jim (1:52.67), and Mark Jainier Chavez (1:37.43).

In the 100m butterfly, Mark's sister—Andrei Kaith Lynn—timed in at 1:58.560 to eclipse her previous PBT (2:04.60), while Boyer submitted 1:12.08, more than five seconds faster than his old mark.

There were also two SSC swimmers who gained PBTs in the 200m freestyle with Dino Sato the first tone after logging 3:25.44 and Lennosuke Suzuki the second with his 2:15.38. Pierce, on the other hand, was the lone SSC bet to mark a PBT in the 100m breaststroke (3:20.78).

Dino Sato added the 200m individual medley to his list of PBTs after clocking in at 4:03.26, while Coume Kaga and Christian Villacrusis had the same feat after recording 3:18.47 and 2:37.90, respectively.

In the 50m breaststroke, Jim tallied a PBT of 58.79, while Matthew Zedde earned his second mark after registering 1:00.42. Other PBT getters in the event were Pierce (42.12) and Rinto Takahashi (43.24).

Meanwhile, the last local meet for the 2015-2016 season concluded with two relay events.

In the mixed 17 and over 200m medley relay, the quartet of Villacrusis, Angel Tan, Kento Akimaru, and Welch clocked in at 2:13.61 to beat two other teams. Tsunami Saipan's Takumi Sugie, Mark Maestro, Miku Tammy, and Angel Jesus came in at second with their 2:19.25, while SSC 2's Coume Kaga, Pierce, Boyer, and Lennosuke Suzuki finished third after logging 3:20.94.

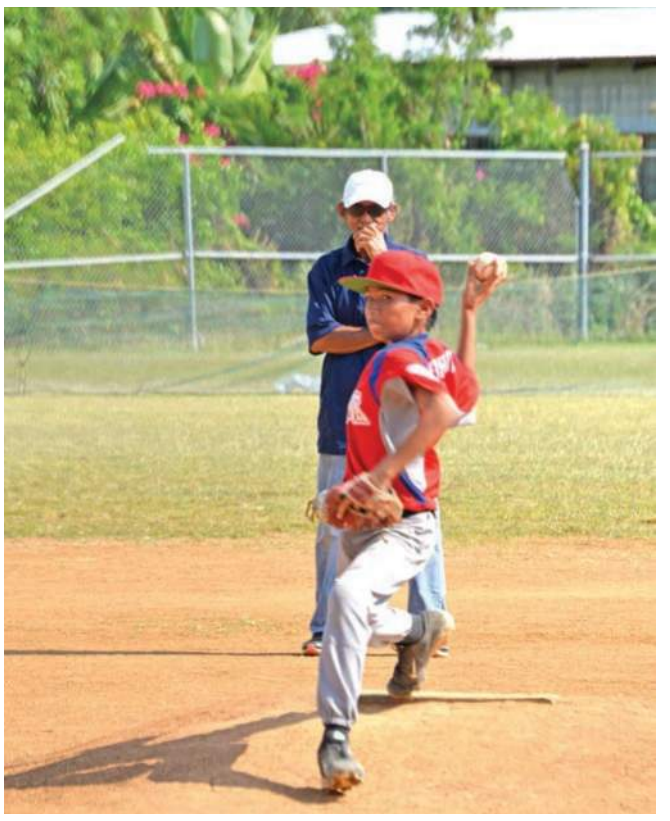
Two more SSC squads joined the mixed medley relay with Leo Takahashi, Lennosuke Suzuki, Taiyo Akimaru, and Mark Jainier Chavez teaming up and clocking in at 3:01.72. Dino Sato joined forces with Jim, Andrei Kaith Lynn, and Acosta and the quartet submitted 3:33.63.

In the 200m freestyle relay, Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran, Juhn Tenorio, Aika Watanabe, and Nelson Batallones recorded 2:14.06 for the fastest time in the seven-team field.

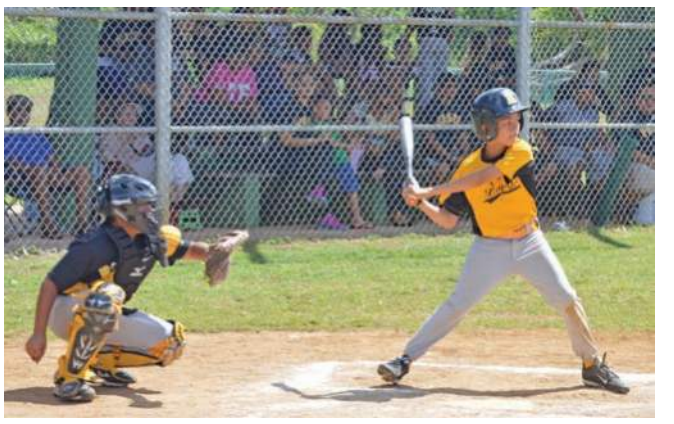
SLLB Majors Division Regular Season Games

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Pirates pitcher eyes his target during their game against the Ol'Aces in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

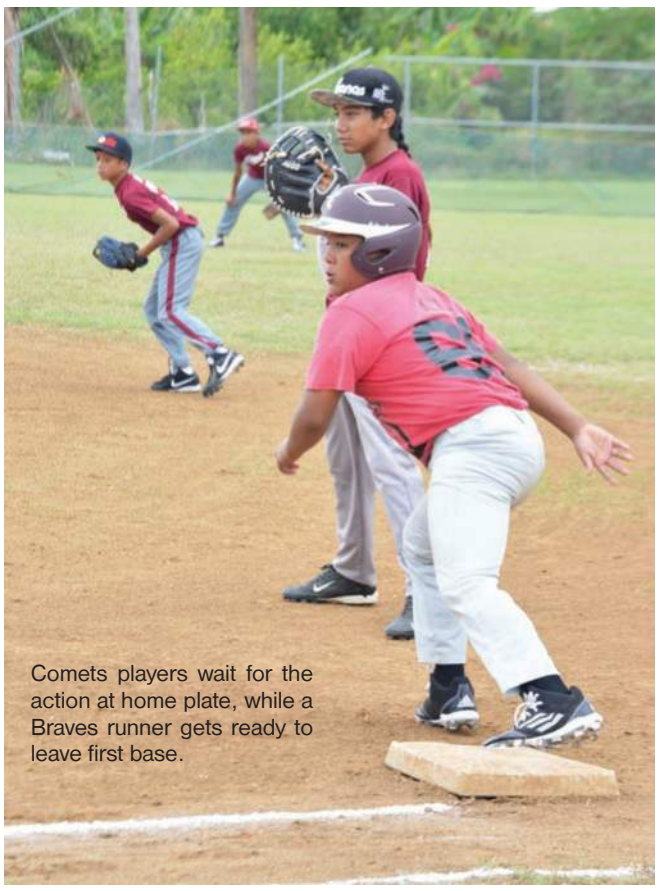


A volunteer umpire watches a Twins pitcher warm up on the mound.



A Little Legals batter waits for the pitch during their game against the Pirates.

A Falcons runner heads to home plate.

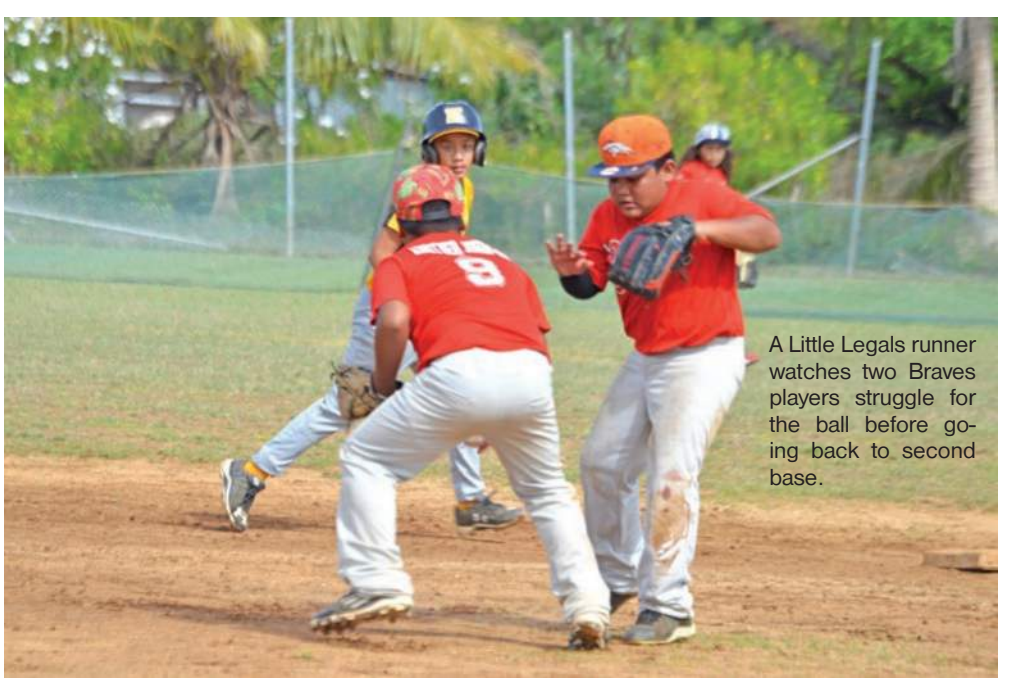


Comets players wait for the action at home plate, while a Braves runner gets ready to leave first base.

The Pirates' Evan Mendiola delivers a pitch.

An Ol'Aces outfielder throws to second base.

A McDonald's batter ducks to avoid being hit by a pitch.



A Little Legals runner watches two Braves players struggle for the ball before going back to second base.

Thunder storm back, beat Warriors in Game 1

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Angels closing in on deal to sign Lincecum

PAGE 25

Lee holds ground for CNMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's title hopes in the 2016 I T & E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships now falls on Carol Lee's shoulders.

Lee was the only Commonwealth player who survived the opening round of the girls singles competition after easing past Japan's Yuna Ikita, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday at the Pacific Island Club hard courts. Lee is seeded sixth in the 32-player field and faced the unranked Japanese, who gave the home favorite a good fight early in the opening set before the former buckled down to work for the first round sweep.

The 14-year-old Lee won her opening match in front of her fellow CNMI players, who watched the first match on Court 2 in support of their teammate. However, Malika Miyawaki, Isabel Heras, Asia Raulerson, Tania Tan, Ami Tsukagoshi, Mimi Sakano, and Negahr Rastguiy failed to duplicate Lee's early success.

Rastguiy, who returned to action after several months of break, played at the upper half of the draw and was beaten by No. 7 seed and Palau's Ayana Rengiil, 6-0, 6-0. Sakano and Tan were also at the top half of the field and lost to Japan's Yuki Sakurai, 2-6, 3-6, and Yuna Fukumuro, 0-6, 0-6, respectively.

At the bottom half of the draw, Heras fell to fourth-ranked Yuelin Chen of Chinese-Taipei, 1-6, 1-6, while Tsukagoshi bowed to her seeded foe—Mana Kawamura of Japan—0-6, 0-6. Raulerson and Miyawaki also failed to score in their losses to Japan's Saki Oyama and No. 2 seed Claudia Ng of Hong Kong.

With the seven CNMI female players out in the singles event, they will try to make up for their early exit in the doubles competition, which will begin today. Heras will team up with Japan's Sophia Hamada, while Tan will also have a Japanese partner in Mua Shigeta. Rastguiy and Miyawaki are also joining forces with Japanese bets in Nanari Katsumi and Sakurai, respectively, while Sakano will have Tsukagoshi as her teammate.

Lee, on the other hand, will work with Rengiil, who was also her teammate in the Guam tournament early this

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Carol Lee returns to Japan's Yuna Ikita during their first round match in the girls singles event of the 2016 IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships yesterday at the Pacific Island Club hard courts

Saipan Fresh, San Antonio advance

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
San Antonio defenders challenge the shot of CES Electronics' Gerald Laguimdan during their regular season game in the DL caging at the San Antonio court. CES is in the semis, while San Antonio will play Mobil today for the fourth and last semis ticket.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Fresh Market and San Antonio moved into the next round of the DL Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 5 after romping past their playoff foes last Monday at the San Antonio court.

Saipan Fresh downed Island's Best Choice in the curtain-raiser, 93-75, while San Antonio topped GMI Market in the second match, 79-64.

A 31-point explosion in the fourth quarter gave Saipan Fresh the 18-point winning margin against Island's Best, which engaged the latter in a neck-and-neck game in the first three quarters before fading away in the fourth.

The final canto begin with Island's Best still ahead by 3, 65-62, but it lost the lead and the game when it scored only 10 points in the payoff period.

Kelvin Fitial outgunned the entire Island's Best team in the fourth quarter, dropping 11 of his game-high 34 points in the homestretch and capping his squad's strong finish with a triple. Fitial teamed up with fellow big man Alex Lauron and guard Oliver Itibus in delivering the big blows for Saipan Fresh in the final frame. Lauron and Itibus had 8 points each in the final 10 minutes of play.

See SAIPAN on Page 26

SSC swimmers collect PBTs in last local meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club members registered 44 personal best times in nine events in the NMISF Closing Swim Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool early this month.

SSC swimmers made the most PBTs (14) in the 50m freestyle. Salofi Welch led the PBT getters in the sprint with his club best 28.02 seconds, .06 of a second faster than his old mark. Other SSC bets who gained PBTs in the final individual race of the May 7 tournament were David Boyer (29.10 second), Lennosuke Suzuki (28.11), R.J. Pierce (33.03), Rinto Takahashi (33.14), Dominic Zedde (39.95), Mark Jainier Chavez (44.30), Leo Takahashi (36.58), Matthew Zedde (52.70), Jinnosuke Suzuki (31.84), Takeru Jim (44.29), Kengo Sato (52.15), Cojiro Kaga (58.87), and Alonzo Acosta (57.31).

See SSC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Salofi Welch competes in the 100m breaststroke event in the 2016 NMISF Closing Swim Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool early this month.